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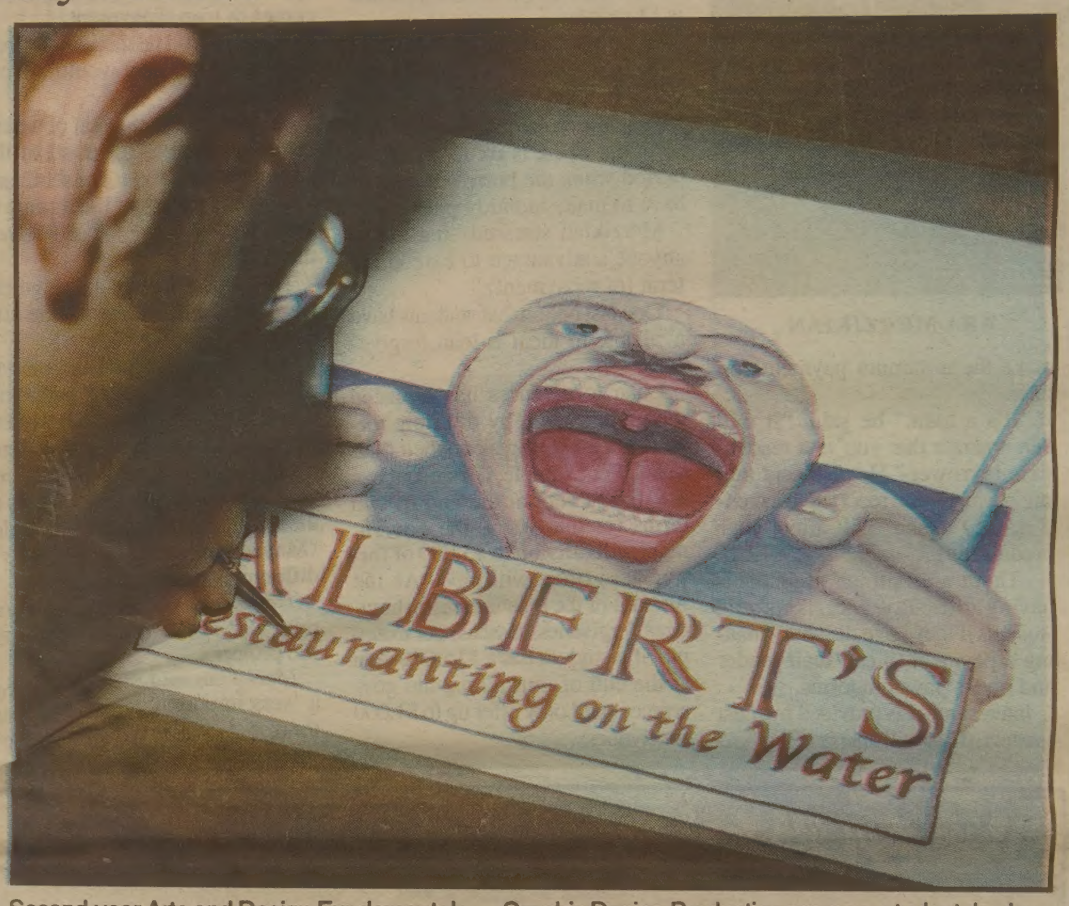

Second-year Arts and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program student Jordan Black, 24, of Dunnville, works on an ad in his illustration class. Look for more photos from the program on pages 10 and 11.

Photo by Dave Barnhardt

NET Corp. becoming international presence

By DAVE BARNHARDT
Staff Writer

Niagara College hopes the recent signing of a partnership with the Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation (NET Corp.) will boost international interest in the Niagara Region.

College and NET Corp. representatives signed the agreement at the Feb. 19 board of governors meeting.

"Our goal is to work together to promote the development of joint initiatives that will help us as a community to realize our full potential," said Gregg Crealock, chair of NET Corp, in a recent press release.

The partnership aims "to promote the Niagara Region as economically vibrant and positioned to compete in the new global marketplace."

As part of the plan, the partners will develop programs for Niagara College which focus on "strategic industry clusters" such as tourism, agribusiness and advanced manufacturing.

In addition, they plan to work to promote the region to the international business community, and to promote regional public and private sector alliances.

Maurice Glaude, chair of the college's board of governors, said the partnership "meets our board's desire to work collaboratively with Niagara agencies to ensure regional economic success."

With projects underway in seven countries, Niagara College has been working to increase its international presence. International trade students joined the recent Team Canada trade mission to Chile and made connections for the companies they represented.

An agreement aimed at promoting international investment is signed by Maurice Glaude, chair of Niagara College's board of governors (seated, left), and Gregg Crealock, chair of the Niagara Economic and Tourism Corporation (NET Corp.), while William Conner, CEO of NET Corp. (top left), and Niagara College President Dan Patterson look on.

Photo by Dave Barnhardt

Cleveland predicts bright future for call centre

By DAVID CONROY
Staff Writer

Call centres and their technology are key to communication's future. This is what business people and students heard when Niagara College hosted the Next Generation Call Centre Conference Feb. 18 and 19 at The Sheraton Fallsview hotel in Niagara Falls, Ont.

The two-day event showcased Brad Cleveland, a world-renowned call centre expert and president of Incoming Calls Management Institute (ICMI, Inc.), based in Annapolis, Maryland.

The conference also featured Don Moffatt, senior vice-president of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce electronic banking and call centre operations.

Cleveland and Moffatt spoke to many Niagara College Call Centre Management and Representative program students to showcase career opportunities.

"Call centres and the field of call centre management are definitely a thing of the future," said Cleveland.

Cleveland is a sought-after speaker, author and consultant and has worked with organizations throughout North America, Europe and the Pacific Rim countries.

Last year, Cleveland and ICMI founder Gordon MacPherson were nominated for a prestigious Smithsonian Institution award for their pioneering work in call centre management.

Cleveland said it is very important to have schools like Niagara training students in call centre technology.

"Niagara College is taking an undisputed leadership role with its Call Centre Management program. With call centres providing a primary point of contact for customers, organizations of all types and sizes are recognizing the vital role they play in competitiveness, customer retention and the ability to adapt to changing markets. The Niagara program equips students to excel in the fast-growing and exciting call centre management profession."

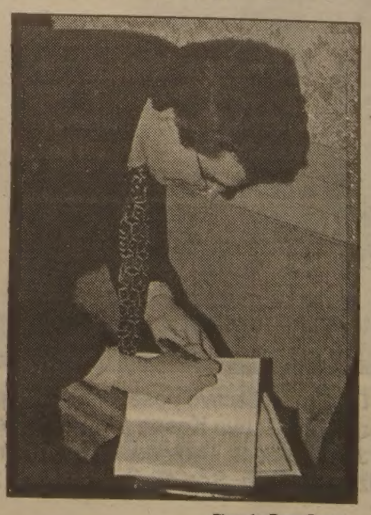

Photo by Dave Conroy

BRAD CLEVELAND

Moffatt was the keynote speaker during lunch on Feb. 19 and identified five key foundation blocks to call centre management.

Moffatt said college call centre training is "critical" to the industry. "The people are only going to be as good as the training you provide them."

Danielle Brown, co-ordinator of call centre programs at Niagara College, said the conference was a big success and raised $20,000 that will be matched by the Double Your Dollars Bursary plan to $40,000.

"We received many opportunities for students because of the conference. Many students were offered positions."

Brown has attended several of Cleveland's seminars and played a major part in Cleveland's showcase appearance at the conference.

College President Dan Patterson said he was excited about having Cleveland presenting at the conference.

"Brad Cleveland is a guru in the field of in-bound call centres and having him come to Niagara and share his expertise is great for our students. He gave out of his free time and money to work with us," said Patterson.

Students exhibiting talent

By PAUL JACKSTIES
Staff Writer

The newly formed Niagara Art and Design Collective is planning a three-day spring exhibition at Beamsville's Magnotta Cellars Winery.

Consisting of Niagara College Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production students, the 35- to 50-member collective is appealing to the community for corporate sponsorship to help defray costs.

The exhibition, to be held April 3-5, will feature works in photography, illustration, two- and three-dimensional design, sculpture and multi-media.

"Our main reason for existing is to get student work exhibited and to allow students to develop contacts in the industry," said Elizabeth Toth, 35, a founding member of the collective.

The student-run collective was organized in part out of frustration by students not having anywhere to exhibit their art work.

See related photo on page 2

First comes graduation, then repaying OSAP

Six-month repayment grace period not interest-free

By CARRIE WHITE
Staff Writer

Students at Niagara College's Welland campus sat nervously awaiting information about their debts on Feb.17.

Despite a poor turnout of about 10 people, Ara Merzikian, a Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) representative, spoke to the students of the process of loan repayment once their years of schooling are finished.

Merzikian started the presentation by handing out brochures and explaining to students that most banks "follow the same guidelines" when it comes to loan repayment.

He said once students graduate, their financial institution sends out a consolidation package. This package will include a total balance of the student's debt.

OSAP gives students a grace period of six months, with the first the first payment due on the last day of the seventh month.

These six months are not interest-free, he said and advised the students that if it were his loan, "if I could afford to pay right away, I would."

Interest for the Canada Student Loan is prime plus 2.5 per cent.

The Ontario Student Loan is due the same time as the Canada loan, but the interest is prime plus one per cent.

While paying back a loan, Merzikian said there is "always room to negotiate interest rates with a bank."

He said the Canada loan is based on an eight-year term while the Ontario loan is based on a 9 1/2-year term.

Merzikian said arranging a pre-authorized payment is a good way to keep on top of the minimum monthly payments.

He said to "make extra payments if you can, to cut down on the amount of interest you have to pay back."

Merzikian stressed to students that reducing the term of their loan is "to your advantage" so that the total amount of interest doesn't accumulate too much. For example, a $10,000 loan paid back over a 10-year period would amount to $14,000 because of the interest accumulated over that time.

Merzikian said it's important to

ARA MERZIKIAN

make the minimum payments on time.

"It's a loan," he said. "It will demonstrate that you're a responsible borrower." He also said that late payments are reported to a credit agency which "will affect your credit rating."

There are options to students having difficulty. Merzikian told students if they have difficulty making a payment to call their lender and revise payment terms.

Interest relief is provided by most lenders. This will suspend the borrower's monthly payments and the interest will be paid by the government.

To qualify for interest relief, the borrower must meet approved criteria by filling out an application. Canada student loan duration for interest relief is 30 months while the duration for Ontario student loans is 18 months.

Another option available to students is a revision of repayment terms, which is only a temporary solution. There is six-month grace period when the borrower doesn't have to make monthly payments.

Merzikian stressed "it's not to anyone's advantage to extend the term (of repayment)."

One last option that students have available to them is loan forgiveness.

Loan forgiveness has replaced the grant system by offering borrowers a bit of a break on their total debts. For example, if a student has a $10,000 debt at the end of two terms (or one year), the government will offer up to $3,000 of forgiveness (they will pay). As the amount of the loan increases, however, forgiveness lessens. For example, if a student has a $15,000 debt at the end of four terms, the government will only offer up to $1,000 forgiveness.

Al Vaughan, Niagara College registrar, attended the lecture because "I'm responsible for financial aid" at the college.

"CIBC has been really good at working with us," he said, adding he thought it was "important that students learn about some of the options available to them" when it comes to loan repayment.

Vaughan said he thought the loan repayment seminar would have a better turnout.

He said "it's somewhat of a marketing challenge" to let all of the students know about the seminar.

Vaughan said "we'll continue to work with the bank" to better advertise next year.

Thoughts about loan repayment were the same among all the students.

"I don't know how I'm going to pay all this money back," said Amie Rogers, 20, of Welland, a first-year Human Relations program student.

Merzikian expressed concern about the low turnout of students at the seminar. "It was low," he said. "Maybe next year we can take a different approach."

There are 10 CIBC representatives who speak to students across the province.

Merzikian said the seminar was a "very important session. It's better (for students) to know all their options."

Olympic rower Laumann to be keynote speaker for Unique Lives series

By ANDREW HALL
Staff Writer

Olympic rowing medalist Silken Laumann will present "Teamwork, Trust and Tenacity — Going for Gold" in the Unique Lives speaker series.

The speech will be on Saturday, April 4, at 7 p.m. at Sean O'Sullivan Theatre at the Brock Centre for the Arts in St. Catharines.

The series emerged from a partnership between Women's Place St. Catharines and Literacy Link Niagara. The organizations deal with people who confront personal struggles, whether it be abuse or illiteracy.

"It's about triumph over adversity," said Chelsea Baird, development co-ordinator for Women's Place development office.

"The goal of the alliance is to present a forum where we can enhance the profile of the people that we serve and discuss the solutions we offer in challenging abuse of women and illiteracy," says Gay Douglas, executive director of Literacy Link Niagara.

"With the World Rowing Championships just over a year away, we figured Silken's story is not only inspirational but timely," added Baird.

Laumann was seriously injured when her rowing scull collided with another from the German team while practicing for Olympic competition. She underwent surgery and physical therapy, returning to win a medal.

The event is being sponsored by radio stations, automobile dealerships and law offices, to mention a few.

Baird said she hopes the event will draw people "from all walks of life, such as friends and colleagues." She said Laumann's story should prove to be interesting to people because she "has never told it to the public."

Tickets went on sale Feb. 16 at the Centre for the Arts Box Office. Prices are $45 for adults (includes a $15 tax receipt) and $25 for seniors and students. All proceeds go to Women's Place St. Catharines and Literacy Link Niagara.

Artists unite!

Members of the Niagara Art and Design Collective pose for a group photo in a lounge of the Niagara College Simcoe Building. Front row left: Tanya Koson, Phyllis Newman, Campbell Macmillan and Kevin Pijl. Back row left: Stacey Jordan, Scott Thomas, Michelle King, Colin Plant, Tonya Lefebvre and Michael Koenen. Top is Elizabeth Toth. See story on Page 1.

Photo by Paul Jacksties

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Concern Tree heightens sexual awareness

By TRACY JAY
Staff Writer

Sexual Awareness Week at Niagara College was a success.

A serious aspect of Sexual Awareness Week at Niagara College was emphasized by two students who enjoyed the "fun reminders" at the pub, but also wanted a sobering message.

'Keychains and condoms were given out and both items went quickly.'

Roxanne Learn, 23, of Welland, is a second-year Educational Resources Special Needs student, and vice-president internal of the Student Administrative Council. Learn came up with the idea of the Concern Tree, and "it was a big hit."

The Concern Tree was an artificial tree placed outside the Learning Resource Centre in the main foyer of Welland campus's Tecumseh complex. It was there to show Niagara College people sexual awareness is more than "just the obvious."

Volunteer Jenn Collier, 21, of Woodstock, Ont., is in her second year of business studies.

"I felt the response was great, but there were a couple of people who didn't take it seriously . . . there always are," said Collier.

Learn and Collier said a few males walked by and made rude comments.

The Concern Tree received $18 in donations and was on display between 1 and 4 p.m. Feb. 17.

Keychains and condoms were given out and both items went quickly. They were designed and donated by artist Mark McKale of Barrie.

Surveys and quizzes on sexual knowledge were distributed and collected. Prizes were given to winners who correctly answered the most questions.

Students and teachers were asked to place messages on tags which were hung on the tree.

"A lot of people took tags, but some just couldn't think of what to write," said Learn.

A few of the messages were touching, all were anonymous, and many came straight from the heart.

"Loving a woman means respecting her NO" and "3x rape survivor (hang in there)," were just two of the cards placed on the tree that day.

Jen Collier, left, 21, of Woodstock, and Roxanne Learn, 23, of Welland, stand by the Concern Tree on Feb. 17.

Photo by Tracy Jay

Chairman honored for service to college

By JONATHON NARVEY
Staff Writer

Vince Bevan is a man on the move.

The Niagara College Law and Security Administration (LASA) program Advisory Committee chairman of six years was given a plaque by the other advisory committee members to commemorate the service he has given to the college.

'I think my greatest achievement in the committee was getting a significant level of co-operation between the college and the police service.' — Vince Bevan

Bevan, 43, who lives with his wife Linda in St. Catharines, is moving to Ottawa-Carleton, where he will be the deputy chief of operations support for the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Police (ORP).

The plaque presentation took place in the Simcoe building on Feb. 12. Twelve people from the advisory committee were in attendance.

"I think my greatest achievement on the committee was getting a significant level of co-operation between the college and the police service" for the LASA program, Bevan said.

"Also, the Public Safety Communications program is the first of its kind in Ontario, and I was involved with that."

'The veteran of the Niagara Regional Police (NRP) since 1973 has been superintendent of the NRP for the past two years.'

Heather Hodgson, co-ordinator of LASA, presents plaque to Vince Bevan, chairman of the Advisory Committee, on Feb. 12.

Photo by Jonathon Narvey

The veteran of the Niagara Regional Police (NRP) since 1973 has been the superintendent of the NRP for the past two years.

'His addition to the advisory committee gave the program co-ordinators a "broader perspective" of police services.'

Bevan said he first became involved with LASA "in 1988, when I was head of a training unit at the NRP." His addition to the advisory committee gave the program co-ordinators a "broader perspective" of police services.

"My goal in Ottawa-Carleton will be to make sure we have a similar relationship between the ORP and Algonquin College," Bevan said.

Celebrations prepared for Women's Day

By BRENDA BEAVEN
Staff Writer

Every year on March 8, women throughout the world gather together for peace, love and solidarity. This year will be no different.

The Niagara Regional International Women's Day's committee will hold a celebration on Saturday, March 7, at the Canadian Auto Workers Hall at 124 Bunting Rd., in St. Catharines.

Events start at 9 a.m. and there will be something for everyone. Refreshments will be available and free child-care will be provided by the Young Women's Christian Association. There will be a panel of eight speakers, and topics range from native issues to lesbianism.

Lisa Sharik, of St. Catharines, is a third-year Women's Studies and Psychology program student at Brock University in St. Catharines.

She said International Women's Day is an "advancement of working contributions women make."

The International Women's Day committee has been "devoted" to the celebration for the past eight years. The celebration originally started when a group of textile working women went on strike for better working conditions and "human rights" on March 8, 1857.

The United Nations declared 1975 to be International Women's Year, and March 8 is known as International Women's Day, said Sharik.

For more information on International Women's Day, call Brock University at (905)-688-5550, ext. 3711.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

New campus changes SAC's April election

NIAGARA COLLEGE STUDENT COUNCIL

Ready, set, vote.

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) is winding down for this year but the 1998/99 council needs positions filled.

This will be the first election held under the new constitution.

Students interested in running can pick up election kits starting March 11 until March 24 at noon.

To be eligible for a position a student must complete the kit and have a minimum scholastic average of 65 per cent for the semester completed prior to the election. Also a student must be 18 at the commencement of the academic year and be a full-time student who pays a SAC fee.

Election kits can be picked up at the SAC office in After Hours at the Welland campus. Students at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls can get their kits at the front office from Maria Topa. Kits can be picked up at the Horticultural Centre in St. Catharines at the main office. Wellandvale students can get their kits in room SC101.

The election will be held on April 16 and because of the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, a new voting process will occur. Depending on what program you're in, and where that program will be held next year, it will dictate which campus representatives you will be voting for.

The Welland campus students will vote for the Welland campus or Glendale campus. Wellandvale campus students will vote for Glendale or Welland. Which program the student is registered in will determine the campus selection. Horticultural Centre students will vote for the Glendale campus. The Maid of the Mist Centre's students are the only ones voting strictly for their campus.

Candidates attending one campus but going to the new Glendale campus during 1998/99 school year, must run their campaign at their current campus. If elected, they will be part of the Glendale's SAC.

Niagara students will be running and voting for three SAC positions: president, vice-president campus affairs and vice-president campus events for each of the Welland campus subcommittee, Glendale campus subcommittee and the Maid of the Mist campus subcommittee.

"This is the first year we have seen this many offices up for election," said Anoop Chugh, SAC executive vice-president. "With three different campuses, it's going to be a different ball of wax and communication will play an important role."

"To have three unified campuses is going to be tough and a lot of changes need to be ironed out."

The last SAC election at the Welland campus had only 66 Niagara College voters make it to the polls.

Chugh said it's hard to get students to vote even after extensive advertising.

"I don't know what more we can do to get students to vote. When I ran for SAC I put up 700 posters and only 100 people voted."

SAC spending for month of February

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) spent $20,966.85 in February. SAC has spent $184,409.63 during the past six months.

The $4,000 was paid to the St. Catharines Student senate at the Wellandvale campus to run the student council and to pay off expenses.

"SAC donated $2,000 to the Niagara College trust fund and the federal government will match our donation, meaning $4,000 will be available for needy students," said SAC President Don Woodruff.

Punchline Promotions received $1,157.78 for the Wintercourse T-shirts and sweatshirts. Another $573.16 was paid to Punchline for the T-shirts given out during Sexual Awareness Week. The shirts for that week were designed by Mark McKale. Punchline is a company based in Etobicoke which produces materials and items such as T-shirts and hats.

These are a few of the funds committed by the Student Administrative Council in February.

St. Catharines Student Senate (allotment)	$4,000.00
Niagara College (Double Your Dollars)	$2,000.00
Punchline Promotions	$1,730.94
Welland Transit City Hall	$1,750.00
Buffalo Sabres	$1,687.91
Canadian Amusements	$1,449.00
View An Ad	$1,321.99
Party Packagers	$1,005.70
Redline Promotions	$ 776.25
Cindy Blanchard (obtain cash prizes)	$ 750.00

SAC purchases bus passes for the Welland City Transit every month for students. Passes can be bought at the SAC office in After Hours.

The Wellandvale campus held an excursion to a Buffalo Sabres hockey home game on Feb. 4. The $1,687.91 was the cost of the tickets for the game.

The Wellandvale campus held a children's Christmas party in December. The $1,449 was paid to Canadian Amusements for the entertainment.

The Party Packagers' bill was for the gifts for the children's party at the Wellandvale campus.

View An Ad is a Toronto-based company that handles the yearbook's advertising. The book is distributed at graduation.

Redline Promotions is a Scarborough company which supplied the money machine used for a Sexual Awareness Week event.

The $750 bill was for cash prizes given to the top three teams during the Event Formerly Known as Wintercourse.

Student health plan for students in 1999/2000

A student health and dental plan may soon be available for Niagara College students if it receives ministry, board of governors and student body approval.

The Student Administrative Council's Mike Berry, vice-president of athletic affairs, presented his proposal for a student health plan before the board of directors meeting on March 3.

The cost for a health/drug plan would be $54.71 per student per academic year. For students wanting the drug plan to include oral contraceptives, their cost will be $74.15. The dental plan would cost $88 for coverage. These costs include a $10 administrative charge.

MICHAEL BERRY

The $10 charge, multiplied by the number of students staying in the plan, will fund the hiring of a full or part-time employee to handle student complaints or questions. Berry proposes either SAC or the insurer would be responsible for hiring, training and overseeing the person.

Berry said many other colleges have health plans for students and that is one of the reasons students are attracted to that college.

This would be a mandatory fee involving all students who could choose to opt out by providing proof of health coverage from other sources. Students may opt out of the plan during the first month of their enrolment.

Berry proposed the health plan be implemented for the 1998/99 school year but because this is a mandatory fee to students, the proposal would have to be submitted to the college's board of governors and to the Ministry of Training prior to imposing it. Because of time restraints, this couldn't be imposed for September because the board of governors meeting is scheduled for next week.

"This is a $300,000 decision involving 15,000 students," said Brigitte Chiki, director of access and student success.

Currently all full-time students become enroled at registration in the Student Accident Insurance Plan, but it is the responsibility of each student to provide personal health insurance.

A motion to call a referendum and have the student health and dental plan coverage issue placed on the ballots in conjunction with the student elections was passed. It will provide information on the feasibility of implementing coverage for the 1999/2000 academic year.

One final step left for new student council structure

Annual general meeting on March 10

The final vote comes down to you.

Two major Niagara College Student Administrative Council (SAC) items were discussed with the board of directors on March 3. They were the new constitution and the 1998/99 budget.

The adoption of the constitution was passed unanimously leaving the new SAC structure to pass one more step before being finalized for the 1998/99 academic year.

The constitution will be presented at the annual general meeting on March 10 at 2:30 p.m. This meeting will consist of all Welland campus SAC members and is open to all Niagara College full-time students at all campuses. Students who attend the meeting will be able to vote on the proposed constitution changes.

The structure has been discussed on two occasions, once on Dec. 9 and Jan. 27 during Welland campus council meetings.

The new structure will include the new position of a SAC ambassador responsible for keeping the lines of communication open and running fluently between campuses. This person would also be responsible for passing on information gathered at subcommittee meetings to the other campuses and for serving as a public relations officer for SAC.

"It's very commendable that there is a very strong communication strategy in here, particularly with the ambassador position. That's a

SAC

creative solution to a difficult issue when you have multiple campuses," said Martha Casson, the college's vice-president of enterprise and service development.

The current structure involves one campus president, one executive vice-president, one vice-president of internal affairs, one vice-president of external affairs and one vice-president of athletic affairs.

Under the new structure, the SAC subcommittee would consist of one president, one vice-president of campus events, and one vice-president of campus affairs for each of the Welland campus, the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

"The results of the day in terms of a quick passing shows how much time, effort and thought has gone into a very complex issue," said Casson.

"I was happy to see everyone go through the constitution and pass it (the new structure). A little hard work goes a long way," said SAC Executive Vice-President Anoop Chugh.

The 1998/99 SAC budget was also a matter of concern. A global budget was implemented to cover all student expenses benefiting all students at the three campuses. A balance of $32.70 per student was allocated to each campus, based on student population.

Council unanimously accepted the 1998/99 budget, but due to new information about discontinuing a $25,000 annual payment towards Student Centre costs, revoked approval. The issue will be discussed on, and may be voted on, March 10.

All stories by MARK RIEHL

WELFARE REFORM

Welfare changes affect single parents

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

"What I'm so frustrated about is they put no value on being a mother," said Lynne Prine, 41, of Port Colborne, about the social assistance changes the provincial government is implementing on April 1.

Prine is a single parent who relies on social assistance to help support her and her three young children.

"I'm a single mother and I work really hard," she said. "I'm really sick of how they treat — in particular because I'm a mother — mothers and how they treat my kids."

One of the biggest groups of people who will be affected by these provincial changes is single parents.

"They shouldn't have to live their lives because their parents fell on some kind of misfortune."

Prine said about the 500,000 children receiving benefits under their parents, "they shouldn't have to live their lives looking at four walls and never be allowed to do a single thing (because there is no money)."

Some of them receive Family Benefits (FB) and some get General Welfare (GW), the two types that have existed in Ontario since the 1960s. FB are administered by the province and are mostly for sole support parents and people with disabilities. GW is administered through the municipalities and is supposed to be short term and mainly for employable individuals and two-parent families.

The Ontario government has introduced two new programs to replace FB and GW: the Ontario Works Act (OWA) and the Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP).

"Previous governments have failed to undertake the necessary overhaul of Ontario's welfare system, despite the recognition that the system is in desperate need of change," said Janet Ecker, minister of community and social services in a news release on June 12, 1997. "We have a responsibilty to people in need and to the taxpayers of this province to fix the system. It's time to provide people with the opportunities they need to become self-sufficient,"

A Feb. 2 news release from the Ministry of Community and Social Services stated all single parents will be transferred to the municipal OWA program from the provincial FB system, and any single parent whose children are in school must participate in the new work-for-your-cheque program, or workfare. Others with younger children have the option of participating. They may be eligible for assistance with child care.

LYNNE PRINE

The province said it and the municipalities will invest more than $600 million annually in child care funding, which includes $30 million in provincial funding for Ontario Works participants if child care is needed.

"A single mom has a job 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and it's a very important job and it should be given more recognition," said Prine. "All of this work belongs to the mother . . . . She has more responsibilities at home.

"I'm not necessarily saying to them, 'Give me more money,' but I am saying, 'Back off and recognize my abilities and my rights to be a mom . . . Stop battering me, because I'm not a liar and I'm not a cheater.' I'm trying to take care of my kids and that is my ultimate responsiblity, and they have no right taking that away."

'Stop battering me because I'm not a liar and I'm not a cheater. I'm trying to take care of my kids.' —Lynne Prine

Although many details about how single parents will be treated under the OWA have not been released by the government, the known changes pose several potential problems to single parents.

Single parents may not be able to decide by whom their children are best cared for, but will be forced to use whatever child care arrangement they can find. Many children may be left in unlicensed, potentially dangerous situations.

Single parents who were in abusive situations may have their anonymity threatened when they are forced to participate in workfare instead of being able to heal and get the counselling and the skills needed to support themselves and their children.

"Who do they think they're hurting here?" said Prine. " What about these kids? Do they ever think about those kids? They're not supposed to do anything . . . And they're supposed to have a drawn-out, distressed mother for a parent? They're not even thinking about these children at all. The mother didn't leave, or the single parent. She didn't leave her kids. She stayed there. She's trying to put a roof over their heads, to try to provide for them and trying to work.

"Life is a constant battle when you're on assistance, trying to prove yourself, trying to survive and trying to support your children."

Workfare, friend or foe, depends on impact

Work for cheque

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

Come April 1, rivers and streams in Ontario may be cleaner, seniors may be happier and snowmobile trails may be tidier thanks to welfare recipients participating in workfare.

The Ontario government designed workfare, as part of the new Ontario Works Act, to get social assistance recipients off welfare and into the community.

Workfare was first introduced in June 1997 under Bill 142, the Social Assistance Reform Act, as a solution to getting recipients into the community and attaining job skills to keep them off welfare.

In a June 1997 news release, Minister of Community and Social Services Janet Ecker said, "As a government, we owe it to the people on social assistance to provide them with opportunities to help them become self-sufficient. Equally, we owe it to taxpayers to ensure that their dollars are going to help people truly in need."

Under the Ontario Works workfare program, about 300,000 employable people who have been on General Welfare Assistance (GWA) for four months will work about 17 hours a week on community projects.

Suggestions by the province include cleaning up rivers and streams, planting trees, looking after snowmobile trails and helping in seniors' homes.

Specific conditions for workfare will be outlined in regulations and in business plans drawn up by municipalities and approved by the province sometime before the April 1 implementation date.

Currently, only selected test site communities are participating in the workfare program, which will be mandatory for any recipient without young children who is able to work.

Refusal to participate will result in a recipient not receiving any benefits, which are now about $520 a month for a single person.

"People want to work and Ontario Works is helping them do that," said Ecker in her press release. "The system must be effective in encouraging people to take responsibility, become self-sufficient and move as quickly as possible to a job."

When people apply for GWA, a caseworker will get detailed information about their past work experience, education and hobbies to evaluate their existing work skills. People who can't read or write or who don't know basic job-hunting skills will be referred to literacy and life-skills courses.

Some people who are considered "job ready" may be sent to an employment agency instead of community projects for placement.

The employment placement programs will be run by private agencies that only get paid if they get someone off welfare and into a paying job for at least three months, according to a article published by the *Ottawa Citizen* on April 7, 1996.

Each placement will be limited to six months.

Critics of the workfare program have many gripes with the intent of the program.

"They don't allow any money for transportation, telephone, anything and then they expect you to go out and go to these workfare placements and still go out and look for a job even," said social assistance recipient Lynne Prine, of Port Colborne.

Many critics are worried that workfare will prevent recipients from earning back the 21.6 per cent cut by the Harrris government in 1995.

Critics worry workfare will interfere with recipients taking another part-time job because they may be unable to co-ordinate job and workfare hours.

"They (the government) should be helping them get paying jobs," said Prine, 41, of the fact recipients are put in unproductive community jobs.

Another concern is the cost of workfare. When fully implemented (within the next three years), it will cost about $500 million.

For more information on workfare in your community, contact the Community Legal Services of South Niagara, 80 King St., in Welland, at 905-735-1559.

Welfare numbers rise slightly after steady drop

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

The numbers are in.

A Feb. 6 news release by the Ministry of Community and Social Services reveals the number of people on social assistance for the month of January has risen by 1,317 people, or 0.1 per cent.

"The overall number of people on welfare has decreased by almost a quarter of a million people since this government was elected in June 1995," said Minister Janet Ecker in the release. "Over the last 10 years, the welfare rolls have typically increased during the month of January."

"They say a quarter million people got off welfare, but where did they go?" said Lynne Prine. "That's what I say. Where did they go? They were cut off; they didn't necessarily find jobs." Prine is a 41-year-old welfare recipient who lives in Port Colborne.

'They were cut off; they didn't necessarily find jobs.' —Lynne Prine

She said she believes the government is wrong to be proud of the recent drops in welfare numbers. She says the government has no proof people have gotten jobs or moved to a better situation.

In January, there were 249,500 cases representing 457,000 people on general welfare assistance.

A total of 301,228 cases or 642,976 people received family benefits assistance.

Ecker said, "We know that we have to do more to help people escape the welfare trap and get back to work. Ontario Works is helping people on welfare develop skills, make contacts with potential employers and give something back to their communities."

The Ontario Works program is in place in most communities, representing over 97 per cent of the employable welfare caseload.

The news release also noted more than 179,000 people have participated in one or more of the program's mandatory activities.

EDITORIAL

Niagara News

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the **Journalism-Print Program**, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Room S212, Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 735-8112.

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You never know

Everyone has heard the saying: "It isn't what you know, it's who you know." This may sound passe, but it holds true.

Perhaps you believe this is an outdated, sexist statement evoking images of mini-skirted women in low-cut blouses sleeping their way to the top and men clad in three-piece suits making millions using stock market insider information. If that's the way you think, you'd better hurry up and step into the 90s before you trip over the millennium.

To survive out there you have to network.

Networking seems simple enough. All you need do is remember the names and faces of important and influential people in your community right?

Wrong!

In order to succeed at networking you must expand your network to include everyone you meet, whether it be at school, work or the grocery store.

You can help yourself by allowing others to help you. You never know where you'll be applying for your next job or when you'll be looking for a new apartment. The people you meet each day can be valuable sources of information or can give you a much-needed helping hand in a crisis.

Isn't it possible your mailman's sister heads the company where you so desperately want to work? Don't forget about all the different people with whom you go to school or work a part-time job. Do you know where they'll be in five or 10 years?

The point of networking is making a connection with every man, woman and child you meet. It's a scary thought, but these days there is no guarantee you won't be applying for a job when you're 50 and the person hiring you is half your age.

And remember, when meeting someone new — the people you don't like today probably won't like you tomorrow.

You don't have to love, or like, everyone you meet. You may find, in the long run, it's more productive to be civil and professional and maybe smile (even if you don't mean it). You'd be surprised when you'll run into these people again, and how "knowing" them might be helpful.

Sarah Tammi

Dig deeper, Mike

The unfortunate situation concerning the three surviving Dionne quintuplets and last week's monetary offer of compensation by the province is sure to be a case that's going from bad to worse.

Considering the enormous estimated $500 million that the province benefited by putting the quintuplets on display as a tourist attraction, Ontario Premier Mike Harris's government should be more generous than the $2,000 a month it offered to each of the survivors. No amount of money will be able to appease the sisters' feelings of being exploited but it'll go a long way towards making amends.

The province should quickly make a more reasonable offer to the sisters so the public can close the book on this tragic chapter of Canadian history.

Paul Jacksties

Famine feeds hungry

By JENN WALKER
Staff Writer

Not eating for 30 hours could help fight world hunger.

World Vision Canada and some of Canada's favorite music stars have joined forces to help feed, clothe, educate and provide medical care for needy children overseas.

The 30-Hour Famine, an annual fund-raiser, co-ordinated by World Vision Canada, will take place on April 3 and 4.

Teens and other participants will drink only water and juices for 30 hours to raise funds and increase awareness of global poverty. They will collect donations from family members, friends, neighbors and anyone who wishes to help.

Last year, the fund-raiser had 100,000 participants and raised $1.9 million.

The goal this year is to raise more than $2 million. About two-million people in 20 countries took part and raised $28 million.

"A 30-Hour Famine — A Benefit Compilation" CD is expected to be released on March 17. It's a compilation of old songs, remakes and one new song. Several of Canada's "high calibre" musicians appear on the mix, including Sarah McLachlan, Moist, Blue Rodeo, Tom Cochrane, Jim Cuddy, Jann Arden, The Tragically Hip and Chantal Kreviazuk.

The proceeds will benefit World Vision projects.

McLachlan, Cuddy and Cochrane are especially familiar with the cause after spending time overseas with needy children. Cochrane has made several trips to Africa over the past eight years.

"I've had a long and inspiring relationship with World Vision, dating back to the 1980s," Cochrane said in a recent press release. "Since that time I've watched the 30-Hour Famine grow into a sizeable event involving thousands of kids and young adults right across the country."

Philip Maher, a spokesperson for World Vision, said the target age group for the famine is between the ages of 13 and 21.

"They are tomorrow's leaders," he said, adding that although World Vision aims to raise the awareness of the young, anyone can participate.

He said they have had thousands of adults take part in the past.

Maher said the CD reaches a wide range of ages because of the variety in artists. He said the artists who take part are "fantastic."

This event started in Canada in 1972. The word spread and now people from Great Britain, the United States, Germany, Australia, Singapore, Japan and Hong Kong also participate in the 30-Hour Famine project.

Even countries who have traditionally been on the receiving end of the aid participate in the project, including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Laos.

Interested people can participate individually or in a group. Last year 6,000 groups in Canada of at least six people took part. The groups are usually schools, youth groups, churches and businesses.

The national dates for the 1998 Famine are April 3 and 4, but the project can take place at any time, depending on the schedules of local groups.

World Vision Canada is the largest international aid agency working in more than 100 countries. Teens and others interested in the 30-Hour Famine can call 1-888-8FAMINE for a free information package.

Bird's eye view

Miho Hirai, 21, an Office Administration-General student, right, and Sumiko Nagata, 21, visiting Canada, are standing on the tree beside the Welland River. They were classmates from elementary school in Inage, Japan.

Photo by Minako Yamaguchi

Freelancers showcased at Niagara

Journalism — Print students shown job alternatives

By CARLY ANDREWS
Staff Writer

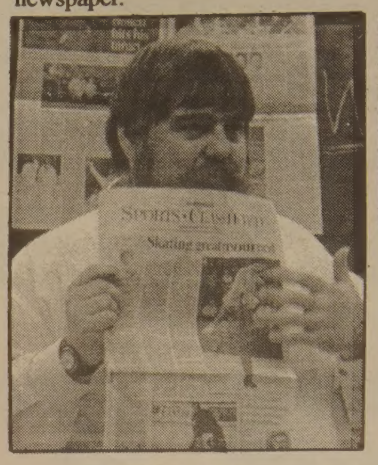
Freelance reporters and photographers work as often as they want generating their own story ideas, hoping newspapers and magazines will be interested in their material.

Kevin Argue, a freelance photographer for the *Welland Tribune*, the *Toronto Star* and many magazines, and his frequent business partner Kathryn Korchok, a freelance writer/reporter for the *Toronto Star*, spoke to first- and second-year Journalism-Print program students on Feb. 16 at Niagara College.

The purpose of the presentation was to explain the day-to-day activities of freelancers, as well as the benefits and pitfalls of this way of working.

Since 1987, Argue said he has travelled all over the world photographing important events and people. He began as a photographer for the *Tribune* and the *Hamilton Spectator*, taking pictures of local events. Then a story broke concerning a million-dollar drug ring crackdown and his photograph appeared on the front page. This was the story that "propelled me into the big leagues," he says.

Argue presented a short slide portfolio to the class. The slides included photographs he took in Cyprus of the end to Canadian peacekeeping there. In a more recent assignment, he photographed Canadian peacekeepers working with United Nations troops in Iraq after Desert Storm. Argue lived with the troops in order to document the story. He learned one of the mine control operations men was from Niagara Falls, Ont., so he focused on his mission, eventually selling the piece to the hometown newspaper.



KEVIN ARGUE

Other photographs were taken of former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, former U.S. President George Bush, and figure skaters Ekaterina Gordeeva and Sergei Grinkov. Grinkov died in 1995.

To start a career in freelancing, Argue says, a journalist must be knowledgeable about the community. The journalist must come up with an angle on a story and contact a newspaper to market it. He recommended sticking to smaller personal stories rather than big issues for which not all information is available.

Korchok has worked for the *Toronto Star* for more than two years, but not exclusively. Several of her feature stories, she says, have appeared in *The Washington Post* as well as other publications.

"I offered to do a Henley (Regatta/rowing) story for the *Star*—and they liked my work," she says, describing her first assignment for the paper. She went on maternity leave shortly after and the paper contacted her to cover more stories.

Although she doesn't work exclusively for the *Star*, Korchok says she is constantly doing full-page features, so "it feels like I work full time," she says.

"I can work a 40-hour week, but if I want to take time off, I can," she says. Korchok's next assignment is a religion-related story.

Argue has covered everything from a Toronto Raptors' pre-season basketball game in Buffalo, N.Y., to a war-related story in Bosnia.

"I go off to a war zone and I come back home and do something else," he says. "Our offices are our homes."

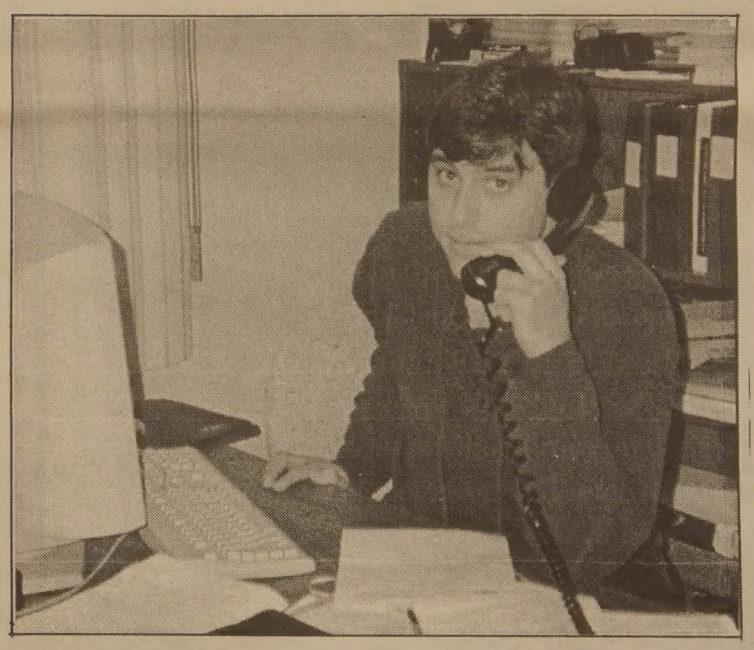
Argue says freelance writers are paid more than photographers, and photography equipment is more expensive. Despite the setbacks, Argue continues to enjoy his job.

"A lot of these (stories) are well thought out," he says. "It's rarely the *Star* turns us down."

Korchok continues to take on new challenges as a reporter but she sets limits for herself.

"I won't go with him (Argue) to Bosnia," she laughs.

Journalism-Print graduate editor of weekly



John Sarko in his office at the *Grimsby Independent* weekly newspaper.

Photo by David Conroy

'Basically I learned the As, Bs and Cs at college,' says Grimsby Independent editor

By DAVID CONROY
Staff Writer

Working as a *Niagara News* reporter and editor can have its rewards.

John Sarko, 32, of Virgil, graduated from Niagara College's Journalism-Print program in 1994 and is the editor of the weekly *Grimsby Independent* newspaper.

Sarko said the time he spent at Niagara eased him into the weekly newspaper experience.

"When I first started working here it was still cut and paste and it was exactly like college except that the amount of work you did in six months of college you did in one week here."

Sarko said reporters need a certain mindset to work at a weekly newspaper.

"As a reporter at a weekly newspaper these days you are the only reporter. You've got a 32-page paper coming up and you need an X amount of stories. Two features? (You think) I've got so much for sports. (You think) I need a sports feature. (You think) I need this many photos. Your mindset works around what the advertising department gives you."

Sarko said working at a weekly can get crazy at times. "It's a lot different than a daily. Your deadlines are obviously different. There are two days of complete madness and the rest of the week you temper yourself."

He said creating stories for a newspaper involves "a little luck" and a lot of responsibility. "Once you start working your mindset is on taking responsibility for the paper. Being lucky and in the right place at the right time is more than 50 per cent of it."

Sarko said he enjoyed his time at Niagara College and learned the basics that go along way in the industry.

"Basically I learned the As, Bs and Cs at the college."

Sarko said college training is more important than ever because of computers.

"Everything's on computer now. Schools starting to train students on Quark and pagination programs are very important in getting up to speed."

Casino Niagara increases local tourism

By BRADEN TANGUAY
Staff Writer

The Niagara Region has been hit by the must-see attraction of Casino Niagara.

Open for just over a year, Casino Niagara, in Niagara Falls, has increased tourism in the region, made hundreds of millions of dollars, and employs over 3,000 people from the area.

This three-level facility, located at the former Maple Leaf Village, attracts visitors from all over the world.

"During the week we get a lot of people from the Niagara Region," says Josh Lesco, a full-time Casino Niagara slot-attendant. "On weekends we get a lot of people from New York State and Ohio . . . and there are always tourists coming in from around the world."

Lesco says most people who visit the casino come in to play the slot machines.

"The majority of people play the slots. It is the easiest way to gamble and people seem to really enjoy playing them. We have a bunch of different types of machines with different cost value. You can play quarter slots or $20 slots. You get a lot of choices. If people do play cards, it's usually Blackjack."

For the hard-core gambler Casino Niagara also offers Roulette, Baccarat and Pai Gow Poker. The other games offered at the casino are Caribbean Stud Poker, Let it Ride, and Big Six.

Lesco says people constantly win at the casino, but he says many don't know when to quit.

"People are constantly winning jackpots, but they don't know when to leave. I've seen people win it big — only to lose it all in the same hour."

'The casino treats its associates really well,' - Josh Lesco

When tourists do come to Niagara Falls many can't resist the lure of the casino's subtle promise of quick cash, but problems can arise when the question of what to do with the children comes up.

"I see it all the time," says Lesco. "Parents leave their kids at the arcade while they go and gamble. Kids just sitting there by themselves with no one watching them, it's horrible.

Lesco says people coming to the casino should leave their children at home. "It's not the responsibility of the casino to watch kids. If people know they are going to come here and gamble, then they shouldn't bring their kids."

Lesco says despite the few problems he encounters the atmosphere at the casino is very positive.

"Ninety per cent of the people that come in here are very civil and are having a great time. Only a few people are walking around pissed off because they are losing money."

Lesco says he is happy to be working at the casino.

"I've got the best job in the place. I make good money and I get to work with people. I meet people from all over the world. The casino treats its associates really well."

In its first year Casino Niagara has made huge profits and attracted millions of visitors. Lesco says the casino is here to stay.

"You can't even fathom the money that goes through the place. I know people that have won thousands of dollars only to lose it a month later. As long as the casino is open there will be people coming in from all over to spend their money."

Financial freedom without sacrifice

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

The one thing you should never leave home without isn't your Visa charge card — it's an understanding of your personal finances.

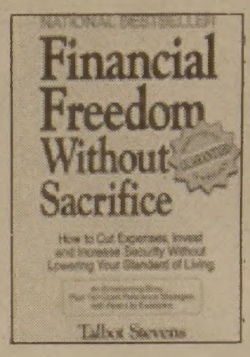
No matter how you look at it "money makes the world go 'round" and in order to survive in this world everybody needs to learn about money. Although most would agree on this point, money and finances, as complicated as they are, rarely grace a high school textbook. They are lessons we have to teach ourselves.

However, help is out there. The financial section of your local bookstore is probably as big as the romance or horror sections.

Financial Freedom Without Sacrifice is the national best-seller by author Talbot Stevens. The book tells you "How to Cut Expenses, Invest and Increase Security Without Lowering Your Standard of Living."

Financial Freedom Without Sacrifice will guide the financially illiterate through the dark waters of mutual funds, registered retirements savings plans, taxes, insurance and much more.

The one thing setting this book apart is that it shows you how to save money so you have money to invest. The author doesn't just



assume we all have thousands of dollars of discretionary cash.

You may think every one of your Ontario Student Assistance Plan or paycheque dollars is spoken for, but with something as simple as teaching you to shop around, this book will save you hundreds of dollars.

At the beginning it states, "Any Canadian between the ages of 20 and 55 is guaranteed to achieve a total lifetime benefit of at least $500." Over a lifetime, $500 doesn't seem like much money, but I'm sure that's the least possible amount you'll save. In the two months I've owned this book I've already found ways to save over $100 a year on car insurance alone.

Instead of shoving a lot of boring, complicated facts down the reader's throat, Stevens puts his advice into an easy-to-understand story.

There is also a quick reference section for those who need to find answers in a hurry.

This book unravels the mysteries of the financial world and, more important, teaches you it's never too early and you're never too young (or old) to secure your future.

Stevens grew up on a small farm in southwestern Ontario and now resides in London, Ont. His book, published by Financial Success Strategies Inc., is written by a Canadian for Canadians. It sells for $14.99.

Don't worry about income taxes this year

Income tax preparation clinic at After Hours

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

It's tax time, but don't worry. Help is on its way and it's free.

Niagara College, in co-operation with Revenue Canada, is offering income tax preparation clinics at After Hours from March 9 to March 20.

"(Students) don't have to do anything — just show up with (their) receipts," said Monique Moran, a co-op education consultant at Niagara College's Employment Services.

Students must bring all their tax documents, such as T4 slips, tuition receipts, rent receipts or Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) contributions.

They will also have to bring their student identification card "to prove they are a student" here.

Second-year Business Administration Accounting students and first-year Business Accounting students have been trained by Revenue Canada and will be preparing the returns.

"All of the returns get verified by Revenue Canada before filing," Moran said.

The service is open to all students from all campuses, unless the return is "super complicated."

"We reserve the right to turn (complicated returns) away," Moran said.

Accepted returns will be electronically filed and will take about two weeks to be processed and returned.

Drop boxes will be located at the Wellandvale campus in St. Catharines and at the Maid of the Mist Centre on Dunn St. in Niagara Falls. Students can also drop their tax information at After Hours at the Welland campus.

The clinic will be open Mondays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

For more information and general inquiries call the St. Catharines Tax Services Office at 984-2274 or 984-2359 or Moran at 735-2211, ext. 7790.

United Way raises $796,125

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

The United Way of South Niagara has been busy and with good reason.

Recent months have seen the United Way of South Niagara launch and complete a successful fund-raising campaign, with record-breaking results, as well as a prosperous Koats for Kids campaign.

Individuals, employees, groups and corporations have responded with support totalling $796,125 for the 1997 fund-raiser, one the United Way heads annually.

The money raised will be distributed to support 69 programs in 28 community-based organizations.

Members of the community pulled together for an extraordinary year.

Fantom Technologies will receive the award for outstanding new campaign as they raised more than $6,000 when matched with a corporate sponsor.

John Deere Welland Works made the first $100,000 campaign in the community with a co-ordinated effort from the corporate, employee, union and retiree sectors, while General Motors made two $100,000 campaigns.

The Town of Pelham surpassed the $25,000 milestone for the first time. The campaign increased 18 per cent to achieve this level.

Non-profit organization employees' donations increased 51 per cent for this campaign.

Direct mail to individuals in the community resulted in a three per cent increase in donations.

Port Colborne Community Living, P.C. Meals on Wheels and the Erie Lakeshore Red Cross (staff and volunteers) co-ordinated the annual Penny Sale at Canal Days. The event realized a 120 per cent increase in revenue over 1996.

The Koats for Kids program saw more than 1,200 coats for children and adults donated and given out at depots in Welland and Port Colborne, along with about 750 miscellaneous items of boots, hats, scarves and mittens.

EMMONS Florists
Teleflora
"Flowers Whisper What Words Can't Say"
Jane and Hubert Charette
Fitch Street, Welland Plaza
Welland ON
732-1311
Show Student I.D. and receive 15% off.

Worship & Prayer

Discover Bible School
Want answers to life's greatest questions? Absolutely Free, 26 beautifully illustrated Discover Bible guides, by mail, with diploma upon completion.
Call: 735-2806

To book a space Call Ron at (905) 735-2211 ext. 7748

Photo by Dave Barnhardt

CRNC RADIO DIRECTORS

Top Row (L to R) - Dave Carrol (Traffic), Paul Black (Music), Tina Elliot (The Big Boss), Rob Falconer (News), Mike Misner (Production)
Bottom Row (L to R) - Martin Chiarot (Promotions), Mark Blimke (Sports)

Check it Out!

- **Congratulations** to Kathleen Hesse, Nicole Carrier, Michelle Cadeaux & Shalon Ainsworth, February winners on CRNC
- Listen to CRNC this month for more great concert give-aways
- **Coming Soon** The Indie Scent Hour on Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Listen for music from all the Indie Bands in the Niagara Region. ***Only on Campus radio CRNC***
- ***Thanks Niagara for listening to CRNC, your campus radio station***

(As submitted by CRNC radio)

NIAGARA COLLEGE
&
REVENUE CANADA

Together Present

FREE

INCOME TAX PREPARATION CLINICS

where

Student volunteers, trained by Revenue Canada under "Revenue Canada's Community Volunteer EFILE Program," are ready and available to prepare your Income Tax Return FREE.

Qualifying returns will be electronically filed with refunds returned in approximately 14 days.

FREE PREPARATION CLINICS will be held during the period MARCH 9th thru MARCH 20th

During the aforementioned period your tax documents can be placed in the drop-off boxes at:
St. Catharines Campus (Wellandvale Rd.)
Niagara Falls Campus (Dunn St.)
or
Brought to the Welland Campus (Woodlawn Rd.) to
<u>After Hours (Student Centre)</u> at the following times:

MONDAY	**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**
TUESDAY	**9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
WEDNESDAY	**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
THURSDAY	**8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**
FRIDAY	**9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

If you require more information please contact the St. Catharines Tax Services Office at 984-2274 or 984-2359 or Niagara College at 735-2211, ext. 7790

Exhibit-ing Talent

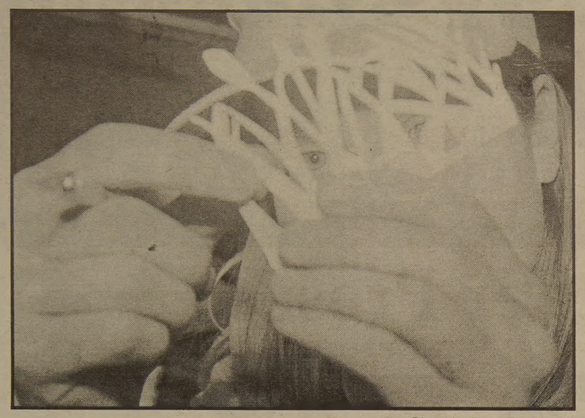


Photo by Dave Barnhardt

Second-year student Tonya Lefebvre, 21, of Long Beach, does a little trimming in her Two and Three Dimensional Design class.

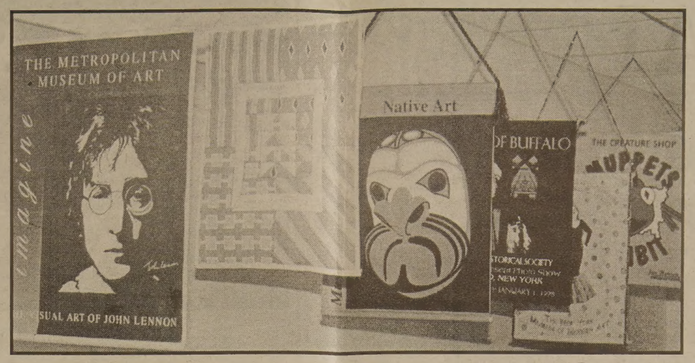


Photo by Jennifer Cote

Projects from the second-year Screen Printing class are displayed along the hall in the Black Walnut building.

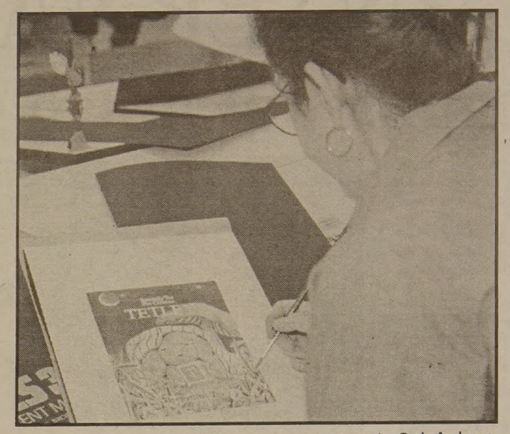


Photo by Carly Andrews

Second-year student Phyllis Newman, of St. Catharines, draws in her Illustration class.

Photo by Dave Barnhardt

Second-year student Jim Bernard, 22, of Port Robinson, stands behind an imaginative creation in his Two and Three Dimensional Design class.

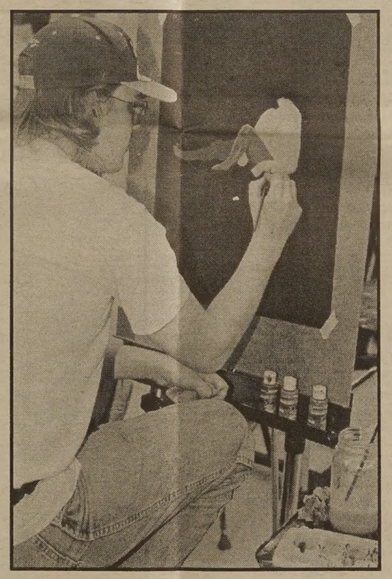


Photo by Carly Andrews

Second-year student William Grimwood, 20, of Fonthill, paints in his Life Drawing class.

Photo by Sarah Tammi

Second-year student James Walton, 20, of England, sketches in his Life Drawing class.

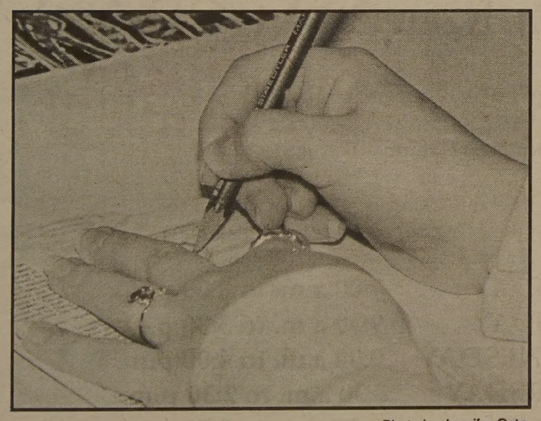


Photo by Jennifer Cote

A student's hands create a picture in a second-year Two and Three Dimensional Design class.

Photo by Sarah Tammi

First-year student Teena Wilson, 20, of Renfrew, prints two color logos in her Screen Printing class.

INTERNATIONAL

Learning unknown Canadian history

Niagara College's English as a Second Language (ESL) program students visited the British Methodist Episcopal Church in St. Catharines on Feb. 20 for Black History Month. Angelita Soto, an ESL student from Mexico, standing in the middle, holds the poster of Harriet Tubman, who freed people from slavery during the Civil War.

History is in the past but should always be remembered.

Niagara College's English as a Second Language (ESL) program students went to the British Methodist Episcopal Church on Geneva Street in St. Catharines on Feb. 20.

Every February, Black History Month is celebrated in St. Catharines and features the history of the Underground Railroad, known as a swift, secret way for fugitive slaves escaping the Civil War.

The church is one place the slaves found their way into St. Catharines when they escaped from the United States.

ESL students watched a half-hour movie showing how slaves escaped with Harriet Tubman, "the most famous" conductor of the railroad.

Dianne Phelps, of St. Catharines, whose great-grandfather escaped with Tubman, gave a brief introduction about the church and history.

Then, Rochelle Bush, historical director of the church, gave the students an overview of how "colored people" found their lives in Canada.

"Harriet Tubman was courageous and compassionate," said Bush. "(She was) a devoutly religious black woman, who risked her life and guided her people from slavery to freedom. She changed the course of North American history."

"I enjoyed visiting the church because I was interested in black history," said Kumi Yoshida, 25, an ESL student from Japan.

Yoshida said she didn't know Canada had already accepted the slaves as free people before the United States did.

"I can't believe white people didn't like black people," said Yoshida.

Tubman, the "Black Moses," lives again through her words: "I'm on my way to Canada, that cold and distant land. The dire effects of slavery, I can no longer stand. Farewell, old master, don't come after me. I'm on my way to Canada, where coloured men are free," Her words are recorded on the bookmark of printed at the church.

Homestay gives students real Canadian life

Most of Niagara College's English as a Second Language program students live with their own Canadian host families. The O'Grady family, of Welland, has had international students since 1995. Front row from left, Laurie O'Grady, Kaitlyn O'Grady, Tomo Miura, the family's student from Japan. Back row from left, Ralph O'Grady and Angelita Soto, the family's student from Mexico.

Homestay is an important part of the experience international students have in Canada.

Homestay means living with a Canadian family. Each student has his or her own furnished room, and the family helps the student to adjust to living in Canada.

Sean Coote, Niagara College's international student adviser, arranges homestays by interviewing Canadian families.

Coote said he hasn't really had serious problems so far. "I make 90 to 95 per cent good matches (between families and students)."

He said sometimes it's difficult to match them because each student has different interactions with a family.

Tomo Miura, 22, an English as a Second Language (ESL) student from Japan, has been living with her homestay family, Ralph and Laurie O'Grady, since September.

Angelita Soto, 23, an ESL student from Mexico, has also lived with the family since last January.

"They are very nice," said Miura. "They care about students. I think I am very happy living here with this family and Angelita."

The O'Grady family has had nine students from Japan, Korea, Mexico and Quebec since 1995.

"Our friends had a student from Thailand, and we really liked her," said Laurie. "That's how we started (hosting students). I really like Tomo and Angelita."

"We've been very lucky," said Ralph. "They (the students) are like my family. I want them to feel a part of my family."

Miura said she has heard people say they hope to change their homestay, but she has "never" thought about changing because "they're not doing it for the money (the monthly homestay fee)."

Laurie said some of her students told her they couldn't stop crying on the airplane to Canada, so it keeps reminding her to make the students feel "welcome."

Ralph and Laurie said it has had a "positive and wonderful" effect on their five-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn. "She just loves Kana (Kurata)."

Kurata, a first-year Tourism (co-op) program student, of Japan, lived with them for 1 1/3 years, which is the longest term for the family.

"It takes a while for Kaitlyn to get used to people, but she now enjoys playing with students," Ralph said.

"I've learned so much from students," said Laurie. "We've learned culture, languages and geography."

The family took Kurata and Miura to Florida with them for a trip.

"It was really fun," said Miura, who went to Florida for 10 days last February. "I feel closer to Kaitlyn after coming back from Florida."

'We encourage students to be a part of our family.' —Ralph O'Grady

A vacation like this is not included in the support host families need to provide students, but "we are happy to do it," said Ralph.

After going to Florida with Miura, they said Kaitlyn has been saying, "I have two sisters (Kurata and Miura)."

"We encourage students to be a part of our family," said Ralph.

Ralph and Laurie said they feel "very sad" when they see students leaving the house.

The two said they still keep in touch with the students and sometimes talk with them on the phone.

Ralph said you have to be "responsible" once you have someone else in your house because these international students are far away from home.

"I really enjoy being homestay," said Laurie. "We hope to continue doing this as long as we can."

All stories and photos by Minako Yamaguchi

niagnews@iaw.com

Dissection CDs now available for use by students

By RACHEL LEECH
Staff Writer

It's what's inside that counts and students will be sure to get an in-depth view with three interactive CD-ROMS that show animal dissections.

The DryLab Dissection series was created by Niagara College's Professor Stuart Duncan, of St. Catharines, who teaches science and health courses.

The series, distributed by Tangent Scientific, of St. Catharines, has received a grand following.

Cathy Tieney, vice-president of sales marketing, said the series is "primarily directed to educational institutions."

The DryLab Dissection series went into distribution in March 1997.

Tieney said it is "very powerful."

The series, which currently has three programs, "initially started with Earthworm," she said.

Also included in the series are programs on the dissection of a rat and a fetal pig.

The series is in-depth and adaptable. It includes pictures, videos, sound effects, a student tracking system and "complete text," said Tieney.

The series is designed to allow a teacher to customize lessons, quizzes and tests.

It has a "multiple quiz format" and allows "each student to have a different test," she said.

"It is very flexible with online dissection."

Another program is expected to be added to the series. A program detailing the dissection of a frog is expected to have the same response or better, Tieney said.

The distribution of the newest addition to the series is "anticipated this March," said Tieney.

Currently, Niagara students have access to the program in Hennepin Hall. Two CDs of the DryLab Fetal Pig program are available for use.

Finding jobs on Net

By CARRIE CHEHOWSKI
Staff Writer

Find employment the high-tech way!

Finding a job for the summer or after graduation is made difficult by the number of students seeking employment at the same time.

Why not get a head start?

Many Internet job search sites have been set up to make getting a job easier for students and to make finding employees for employers less troublesome.

Here are a few of the job search sites students can use to get a jump start on their career:

CAREER OPTIONS:

1. Labor Market Information - http://lmi-imt.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/
2. Job Futures - http://www.hrdc drhc.gc.ca/hrdc.corp/ strstpol/ jobs/english/index.html
3. Niagara (specific) - http://www.vaxxine.com/hrdc
4. Career Talk - http://www.careertalk.com/
5. Virtual Job Fair - http://www.vjf.com/

SELF-ADVERTISEMENT:

1. Riley Guide - http://www/jobtrack.com/jobguide/
2. Career Mosaic - http://canada.careermosaic.com/
3. Work Search - http://worksearch.gc.ca/
4. Career Connect - http://careerconnect.theglobeandmail.com/
5. Public Service Commission (federal government applications) - http://www.psc-cfp.gc.ca/jobs.htm

JOB LISTINGS:

1. HRDC Job Bank - http://jb-ge.hrdc.drhc.gc.ca/
2. ERlectronic Labor Exchange - http://www.ele-spe.org/

CanWorkInfoNet - http://www.workinfornet.ca

4. HRDC Job Bank - Niagara - http://www.vaxxine.com/hrdc
5. Career Information Network (CIN) - http://cin.becon.org/

Salute to Morons

Http://members.aol.com/doggies-not/moron/driver/index.htm

By MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writer

How much trouble can a moron make if a moron can make trouble?

Seems to be a lot.

The first Web page reviewed is a must-see for any person who owns or makes use of a vehicle, any vehicle. How to drive like a moron, http:// members.aol.com/ doggies-not/moron/ driver/index.htm is an excellent source for all your moron driving needs.

From general driving rules to interpreting traffic signs to becoming a back seat driver, this page is set for the moron in all of us.

There is both a graphical and non-graphical page so if you are running on a slow server or modem, you can still check the page without loading all the silly graphics, although the graphics add to the flow of the page. They look as if a four-year-old drew them and are kind of funny.

The second page, http:// www.localnet.com/ ~angstboy/ moron.html, is a text file on our growing moron threat. It explains morons in general and survival tactics on how to live with them.

This "article" is very funny and should be checked out when you need a good laugh and have the time.

The last page is mostly a text file. Drop by http:// www.impulse.net/ ~wswingle/ moron.htm to discover a world of moron jokes. The page does not seem to be updated regularly but the creator asks that people who know of other jokes send them in. So let's do our part. I know there are morons out there. I am one of them.

To all the morons in the world, I salute you!

666 666 666 666 666 666

By PAUL JACKSTIES
Staff Writer

Computers are Satan and the end of the world will take place in three years. Perhaps a little explanation is in order.

I was doing some research on cabbalists when I was invited to one of their meetings. They were wearing robes and throwing dice when the number six recurred frequently.

"Computers are Satan," said one of the members. He went on to explain by ascribing each letter of the alphabet with a numerical value based on the number six, that is, A = 6, B =12, C = 18, etc.

He said that by taking the word "computer" and adding up all the numerical values for each of the letters, the amount comes to 666, the biblical number of the beast.

The other members of the cabal seemed to already know this numerical mystery and expressed accordance.

"The end of the world will take place in three years," said another member. He went on to say he knew this because 666 divides exactly three times into 1998, our current year. Three is the number of years before the year 2001, the true start of our millennium.

Again, the other members of the cabal already seemed to know this and comforted their friend in this foreboding esoteric knowledge.

Allowing my professional demeanor as a journalist to slip, I couldn't help but allow my own offerings on the number six.

"Two inmates of a prison are working in the metal shop manufacturing licence plates for cars," I told them. "The one notices that the other is only printing plates that read 666 666. 'You can't do that,' he says. 'They all have to be different.' The second inmate looks at the first and says, 'That's why I'm in here. I'm a six maniac.'"

The cabbalists asked me to leave after that and I never did get my story.

Take prisoners

By MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writer

Evil is good!

These are appropriate comments about the game Dungeon Keeper for the PC.

In the tradition of Dune 2, Dungeon Keeper is a real-time strategy game but is multiplayer compatible like Warcraft 2.

The strategy of the game depends on the level you are playing. A player builds a grand dungeon below the cities of a Dungeon Keeper world and tries to defeat the lord of the lands or to defeat another Keeper who is also trying to build a Dungeon below the lands.

Instead of just building and fighting like Warcraft or Dune, a Dungeon Keeper player is able to discipline his minions by slapping them around or throwing them in the torture chamber. In later levels a prison is produced where captured enemies can be held until they die and rise as skeletons for your command. A player can also chose to torture the prisoners in the torture chamber until they decide to convert to the player's cause.

A player can develop different spells and lead armies of evil creatures on the way to becoming the greatest Dungeon Keeper of all time.

Remember: Evil is good!

Relive your childhood @ Disney.com

By MARK HRADSKY
Staff Writer

If you ever feel the need to relive your childhood and don't think you'll have the chance, go to www.disney.com.

Once again, Disney has created a masterpiece. Start off with a trip through Walt Disney World where you can plan your vacation, buy your theme park tickets via online service, or visit the resort recommender.

You can also register for contests and sweepstakes if you are over 16 but, unfortunately, it's only open to U.S. residents. It has a TV guide for the Disney channel that day, and check out all the new Disney movies, TV shows and software coming out.

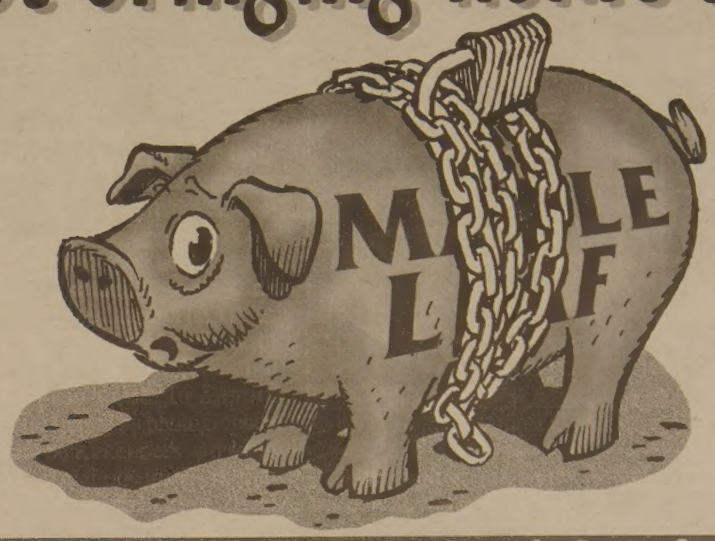
At www.comedycentral.com, you will experience the American comedy channel in all its glory. From the station that brought us South Park and Dr. Katz, Viva Variety, and The Tick, comes a fabulous web site. Although there are a lot of graphics to load whenever you go to a new page, the wait is well worth it. With my 28.8, it took about a minute to load each page fully. There are 11 games on the game page and some song parodies there too. The South Park page is excellent with a chat and a booster club allowing the surfer to subscribe to the Official South Park discussion list.

You can also download South Park Video or audio clips from the South Park site or go to the download site for Dr. Katz, The Tick, or Saturday Night Live.

Both sites are excellent stress relievers and are worth viewing.

If you're looking for a good laugh, check out Comedy Central. If you want to relive your childhood, check out Disney.

We're not bringing home the bacon!



Or the wieners and franks.

Or the cold cuts, the hams, the sausages, or anything else Maple Leaf makes.

Maple Leaf Foods is a huge Canadian corporate success, with big-time global aspirations. Its meat slaughtering and processing operations have earned it so much money, it has spun off into all kinds of other food production: bakeries, pasta-making, frozen foods, and even coffee and doughnut shops.

But in the quest for ever-higher profits, Maple Leaf President Michael McCain is offering his workforce only the scraps. In August 1997, Maple Leaf locked out workers at its North Battleford, Sask. bacon plant because employees wanted to improve on their industry-low base rate of $9.88 per hour. The same thing happened in October to Hamilton, Ont. workers, whose base rate was just $10.90, bringing to nearly 500 the number of workers locked out of their jobs. Then about 900 pork production workers in Burlington, Ont. — faced with company demands for rollbacks from $6.00 to $9.00 per hour — were forced to strike in November. They were followed just days later by another 750 workers in Edmonton, Alta., who are threatened with permanent plant closure and loss of their jobs.

These workers are all members of the United Food and Commercial Workers, or UFCW. We don't think it's right that Canadian workers should have their wages and benefits reduced to rock-bottom levels just because that's someone's idea of a "competitive reality" — especially when the company continues to not only grow and profit, but to try and swallow up the competition. Canadian workers should be paid what's fair and equitable *in Canada* — period. After all, Michael McCain is still "bringing home the bacon".

BOYCOTT MAPLE LEAF PRODUCTS

If you care about what's fair, please join us in boycotting these Maple Leaf products:

MEAT PRODUCTS

Maple Leaf • Burns • Overlander
Swift Premium • Prime Poultry
Campfire • Shopsy's • Coorsh
Clover • Bittners • Devon • Parma
Hygrade • Mary Miles • York

BAKED GOODS

Canada Bread
Dempsters
Karnes • McGavin's
Tenderflake
Venice Bakery

CANNED & FROZEN

KAM • Klik
Maple Leaf Canned Chicken & Ham
Maple Leaf Frozen Pizza, Hash Browns

OTHER:

Country Style Doughnuts • Olivieri Pasta & Sauces
Shur-Gain Pet Food & Livestock Feeds

Issued by the UFCW National Defence Fund, November 1997 • For more information, contact the UFCW National Office:
300-61 International Boulevard, Rexdale ON M9W 6K4 • 416.675.1104 • fax: 416.675.6919

ENTERTAINMENT

High-energy play evokes emotional response

By SARAH TAMMI
Staff Writer

Paying the rent has very little to do with what *Rent* is all about.

Rent, Jonathan Larson's rock opera, loosely based on Puccini's *La Boheme*, is both tragic and life affirming.

The performance could be compared to that of people on high doses of caffeine dancing feverishly in an electrical storm, but it wouldn't even come close to describing the energy radiating from the stage. It's an energy that evokes a rollercoaster of emotions in actors and audience alike.

It's the story of a closely entwined group of friends, lovers and traitors, who, on the surface, seem to be held together by a building, but it's later revealed the threads are bound much tighter.

Benny (played by Damian Perkins), Mark (played by Chad Richardson) and Roger (played by Luther Creek) were roommates. Mark was dating Maureen (played by Jenifer Aubry), but she left him for Joanne (played by Karen Leblanc). Roger, best friend and still roommate to Mark, falls in love with Mimi (at this performance played by Saskia Garel), who used to date Benny, who is now married to a gal with a rich daddy. Mark and Roger are close friends with Collins (played by Danny Blanco), another former roommate who meets and falls in love with Angel (played by Jai Rodriguez).

Friendships are severed when ambition causes Benny to renege on a deal he made with Mark and Roger.

Benny's father-in-law helped him buy the building and the lot next to it where he used to live — where Mark and Roger still live. Now after a year Benny wants the rent. How to find money for a year's worth of rent when you can't even find money for electricity? The only option is for Mark and Roger to stop a protest, being held by Maureen, and get rid of the homeless community in the lot next door.

Confused?

The story is a bit complicated, as are the lives of the characters, but it all comes together in the end.

Rent, with its electrifying cast and catchy rock tunes, is easy to be entranced by. Although entertaining, there is a moral to this story, desperately trying to get through the wailing guitars, flashy costumes and soulful lyrics.

This performance got hoots, hollers and a standing ovation from most in the audience. However, many of those same satisfied theatre-goers still looked away as they passed the real faces of the homeless on the sidewalks outside. I guess the point was missed.

By TINEKE BRUINSMA
Staff Writer

The audience was crying, laughing, applauding and mooing.

Writer Jonathan Lawson's *Rent* is a musical for young adults living in the 1990s. It touches on many social issues surrounding young people today. The production strikes a chord in all who watch the fast-paced story of survival in the '90s.

The musical is a retelling of the beloved opera *La Boheme* set in the Gen-X bohemia of New York's lower East Village.

The characters in *Rent* attempt to make a living by acting and dancing. The main character, Mark, lives with Roger. The two fight to save their home and the vacant lot next to them. The lot houses several homeless people.

They are trying to protect their home from a former roommate Benny, who plans to build a high-tech cyber-arts studio on the property.

Mark's former lover, Maureen, stages a protest against the studio. During the protest, she acts out a dream in which she talks to a cow. The cow is also against the studio and moos in protest. Maureen gets her audience to moo along with the cow to protest Benny's actions.

Through several turns and twists, friends are made and lost. Throughout the production, the characters are aware of the negativity and prejudices that surround them. A dear friend is lost and the group grows closer together and then begins to fall apart.

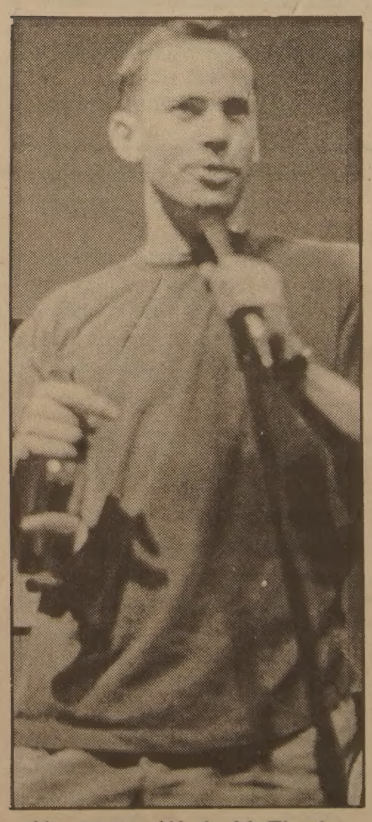
Each character in *Rent* battles his or her own demons. Maureen and her lesbian lover Joanne battle the prejudices of an interracial relationship, along with the lack of acceptance of lesbianism.

Roger and his girlfriend Mimi try to piece together a relationship with the shadows of past relationships looming in the wings.

However, complete happiness is not found and the characters decide to live their lives in search of it, instead of letting the bad get them down. The characters start living each minute of the day and each day of each year in seasons of love.

The musical is playing at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, in Toronto. Tickets are on sale through their box office at 1-800-461-3333. Tickets range form $35 to $80.

Audience makes comedy night memorable



Newcomer Wade McElwain left a smile on the audience's faces and had them waiting for more.

Photo by Crystal Older

By CRYSTAL OLDER
Staff Writer

On Feb. 11 the audience's laughter in Niagara College's After Hours pub began when Wade McElwain stepped on stage and continued until headline comedian Shaun Majumder finished his act.

McElwain performed first. He was slow in inducing laughter but did have some sporadic gems. McElwain started by poking fun at his bachelor of arts (BA) degree in history. "I don't have bugger all in history," he says.

McElwain is the less experienced comedian, but says he has made people laugh for about 1 1/2 years. He's from the small town of New Dundee near Waterloo, Ont.

McElwain began his career by winning a "search for a new comic" contest.

He began his act by talking about his friends who are getting married. "The bride and groom worry about everything being perfect at their wedding, but I just worry about the free booze."

Next up was Shaun Majumder, of Toronto, a comedian of three years, and host of YTV's Brainwash. He was an actor in John Woo's movie *Once A Thief* and has recently had Billy Bob Thorton sign with him in his next movie.

To Majumder, audience participation is a way to keep their attention. He elicited laughter when he called himself a "Poofie" (a person of Pakistani descent originally from Newfoundland).

"I was addicted to smoking and stopped by chewing gum. Now I am addicted to gum," says Majumder.

Majumder did a few good impressions of U.S. President Bill Clinton and entertainer Jim Carrey smoking pot. That impression made the audience laugh, as did his impression of actor Robert DeNiro, as a deaf man.

Next he spoofed talk-show host Jerry Springer. "Wouldn't it be fun to have our own show right here at the After Hours?" he asked.

Majumder decided on a topic and chose an audience member to be part of the show.

The audience laughed for a while, until the novelty of the Jerry Springer show wore off. After 15 minutes or so, the audience became tired and restless and some people began to talk, while others left.

Majumder finished the Springer segment and did a few more impressions before the house lights went up.

YTV's Shaun Majumder couldn't stop making the After Hours audience laugh on Feb. 11.

Photo by Crystal Older

Niagara News
SPORTS
Sports Desk: 735-2211 ext. 7750
-S1-

Belleville wins volleyball finals

By ANDREA FLINDALL
Staff Writer

Niagara College has proven to be the host with the most.

After hosting the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) men's and women's volleyball all-star games in early February, the college hosted the men's volleyball championship Feb. 18 to Feb. 20.

It is the first time a college has hosted the volleyball all-star game and championship series in the same year.

Belleville's Loyalist College won the championship, defeating Peterborough's Sir Sandford Fleming College.

The teams practised in the Mackenzie Building gym on Feb. 18.

After the teams were finished, the players gathered in the cafeteria for a banquet.

Jack Peets, a former Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program student and disc jockey at 97.7 HITZ FM in St. Catharines, served as the master of ceremonies for the banquet.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson welcomed the guests.

"It is difficult to balance academics and varsity sports. You are all outstanding athletes and you should be proud of your accomplishments," he told the group.

Awards followed the meal, including naming the OCAA all-stars. All-Canadian awards went to Matt Timm and Tim Pennefather of Oakville's Humber College.

Following the ceremonies, Ray Sarkis, Niagara's assistant athletic director, who served as host and senior convener, wished the teams well.

"You are the cream of the crop. Show everyone what you can do. Respect the players, coaches and officials. Everything is ready to go . . . have an amazing tournament."

The games began Feb. 19 at 9 a.m.

"The day was so long because the games were so close," Sarkis said. "With the exception of two games, they all were five matches long. The teams were so even that it was a fight to death every match."

Niagara played its first game against Loyalist College, the first place team in the East Division.

Despite a strong showing by Corey McKeown with 11 kills and three blocks, Niagara was defeated in three straight matches 15-12, 15-4 and 15-13. Chris Weirsma had eight kills and two blocks for Niagara.

Later in the day, Niagara had an exciting win over North Bay's Nipissing University in a five-match game with the fifth match going to 21 in rally points. McKeown led Niagara again with 18 kills and three blocks while Paul Clark had 12 kills and one block.

Only two teams in each pool made medal round action on Feb. 20 and Niagara lost out by two match losses.

Humber faced Nipissing in bronze medal action. Nipissing was flat on their feet after just completing the semi-final game and lost in three straight games by 15-11, 15-13 and 15-7 scores. Timm of Humber had 18 kills.

It seemed ironic the regular round games were so close and competitive and the final matches were more one-sided, but Loyalist beat Sir Sandford Fleming in three matches. Todd Boys had 21 kills for Loyalist. The scores were 15-8, 15-7 and 15-10.

"We knew all the games would be close," Sarkis said. "Even Loyalist was upset at the start of the tournament, but they came out on top."

With such a positive feedback from participating schools, Sarkis said he was disappointed with only 500 fans in attendance throughout the weekend.

"It was tough because it was the weekend before reading week and a lot of people were home or getting ready for vacation. It's too bad.

A time to kill

Niagara's Corey McKeown gets one of his 18 kills during a round-robin game against North Bay's Nipissing University on Feb. 20.

Photo by Randy Syer

Knights fall short after strong season this year

By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

A best-ever season record, a playoff victory and an appearance at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Final Eight tournament have given the Niagara College men's basketball team a foundation to build on for next season.

The Knights had to face the No. 1 team in the nation in the opening round of the single elimination tournament dropping to Nepean's Algonquin College 81-64 on Feb. 26 at Centennial College in Toronto.

"I was nervous," said Niagara guard Mike Harris.

"A lot of the guys were nervous and it showed in the first five minutes of the game."

Niagara was down by 14 points at half-time with the score 36-22 favoring the Thunder, who were trying to bolt the Knights out of the tournament. With eight minutes left in the game, the Knights salvaged the score, ending down by only five points.

"They had more depth than us and it showed and they fueled off our fatigue and pulled away," said Knights' head coach Jeff MacDonald.

This was the first time Niagara has qualified for the OCAA tournament.

"It's hard to prepare for this tournament when you have never been there," said MacDonald. "It was a great accomplishment being there and a great experience."

Mike George netted 23 for the Knights while Mike Harris added 14 of his own in the losing cause.

"The Knights were missing the heart and soul, Kerby Bentley, which affected them a lot," said Sarkis.

Bentley was injured while practising for the all-star game last month.

"With all things considered they (Niagara) played well. I was pleased they defeated Nipissing and they gave Loyalist a good game. It's hard for a team to play with so many injuries," he said.

"Some members of the team need to realize that experience doesn't win games," said Sarkis, adding the team needs to work harder in order to compete at the provincial level.

Next year the team is expecting some new recruits and many returning from this year, but the team will miss veteran talent such as Stacey Kay, Chris Weirsma and Paul Clark.

The Knights finished the regular season with an 8-4 record in the West Region, the best record in the history of the team.

"The season was very successful and a great accomplishment," said MacDonald.

Niagara played Seneca College, of North York, in a playoff game after the regular season to determine if the Knights were bound for the OCAA tournament.

"It was a great game for us," said MacDonald. "This was the biggest win ever for us and the program because it got us into the OCAA tournament."

MacDonald said he is looking forward to coaching the Knights next season for a full year with the team.

"It will be interesting to be in charge of the team from day one and make changes to the team, taking them to the next level of play."

"We have some weaknesses that we need to build on for next season and we have some upgrading to do across the board to move into the upper echelon in the province."

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Niagara's Schatz gets coaching honors

By KERRI WOOD
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Carolyn Schatz has been named Coach of the Year for the West Region by the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) in women's volleyball.

Schatz, 31, of St. Catharines, is co-ordinator for the college's recreation department and has been head coach of the college's women's volleyball team for the last three seasons.

"It's a nice system because in a sense your peers are voting for you — the other coaches as well as the players," she said.

Besides coaching, she is teaching an elective for the General Arts and Sciences program.

Schatz is taking theory classes and is certified to Level 2 in coaching.

"I am always looking to improve and to advance." She said taking the theory classes is "an important aspect" of coaching.

The three components in the five levels of theory classes are theory, technical and practical.

Schatz said taking all components of each level is time consuming and challenging, but it is "rewarding to have a teaching certificate."

Meanwhile, Schatz nominated three women from Niagara College for the 1997-98 OCAA Honor Award West Region League all-stars.

The nominees were Liana Collins, Laura Chatterton and Kimberly Clifford. Six female athletes from the West Region were chosen for the all-star team. Two of the six were Collins and Chatterton.

"Six people were chosen and we had two from our team. It's a nice honor," said Schatz.

Every coach nominated three players from their own team that they believed the OCAA would recognize and that the other coaches would recognize.

Once all nominations were submitted and compiled, the OCAA sent out another sheet for the coaches to vote for the top six players in the region and to rank them and to vote for the top three coaches in the region and to rank them as well. From that data, the OCAA head office announced the results.

Meanwhile, Niagara's women's volleyball team finished in second place in the West Region with a record of six wins and three losses.

By placing within the top six teams, Niagara qualified for the provincials held at Oshawa's Durham College on Feb. 20. At the provincials, Niagara played its first match against Durham, losing three games to one.

The second match Niagara played was against Etobicoke's Humber College. Niagara lost the match also three games to one.

"It was inexperience that caused our overall loss," said Schatz. "They (the team) were a bunch of deer caught in the headlights. I think the pressure got to them . . . They were the underdog . . . Nobody expected them to be there."

Jesse Knight, at Brock University in St. Catharines, is the college's assistant coach for women's volleyball. He is at Level 1 coaching.

"The chemistry between the coaches led the team to the Ontario finals," said Kimberly Clifford, 21, of St. Catharines, an Interactive Multimedia post-graduate program student and co-captain of the women's volleyball team.

Schatz is recruiting players for next season, which will be her fourth season as coach.

She said she plans on returning next year. "As far as I know, they're not terminating me."

Ray Sarkis, Niagara's assistant athletic director, said, "Carolyn is very deserving of the award."

"It's fantastic that she was recognized by her peers for the outstanding job that she's done this year for the women's volleyball team," said Sarkis.

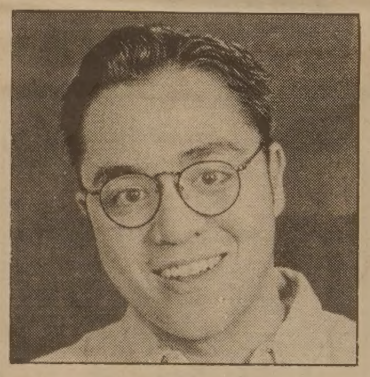
She has spent a lot of hours recruiting the right athletes, he said, adding, "It makes a big difference to the team."

Sarkis said Schatz's recognition is "an extra boost to her confidence."

"I'm proud that Niagara got recognized for its outstanding coaches," said Clifford.

"I am going through withdrawal right now because there is no volleyball, the season is over," said Schatz.

Nagano in review



By MARK RIEHL
Staff Writer

Ross Rebagliati found his pot of gold, Elvis came home with a heart of silver and the Canadian men's hockey team didn't come home with a medal, but Canadian hockey is worth as much as the loonie.

Our Canadian athletes are back from Nagano with an all-time high 15 medals — six gold, five silver and four bronze. That is two more medals than the last games' total in Lillehammer.

OLYMPIC SURPRISE

Our speed-skating team won nine medals, combining for three gold, two silver and four bronze.

The men had medals from Jeremy Wotherspoon, Kevin Overland, Eric Bedard and gold in the short-track 5,000m relay team. The women proved better with two medals from Catriona LeMay Doan with a gold medal and a bronze. Annie Perreault, Susan Auch and the women's 300m relay team also collected medals. Maybe these skaters should try playing hockey. They skate better than the men's hockey team.

OLYMPIC FIRST

Rebagliati opened Canada's medal count with a gold medal — only one year after opening that bag of pot. If snowboarding wasn't taken seriously as an Olympic event, then organizers may have to weed through the problem.

OLYMPIC EXCITEMENT

Pierre Lueders and Dave MacEachern went into the fourth and final heat in second-place in the two-man bobsled competition and they tied for the gold medal in their last run.

OLYMPIC HEART

Elvis Stojko went into the Olympics expected to win gold. Instead, he skated with a groin injury and had flu symptoms in his final skate. He hobbled to the podium for the silver medal, which was won strictly on heart and determination. Elvis is still king in Canada.

OLYMPIC HONOR

Jean-Luc Brassard moguls specialist, a gold medalist in Lillehammer, was the flag bearer for Canada, but instead of being proud to carry our flag, he blamed his fourth place finish on having to perform the honor.

OLYMPIC SWEEP

The women's curling team did their part in pocketing the gold medal, but the men couldn't come home with the silver. Men's skip Mike Harris had flu symptoms during the gold medal match, but how hard can curling be?

OLYMPIC UPSET

The men's hockey team lost the chance for a gold medal when it lost to the Czech Republic. The team then lost to Finland who won the bronze. Even the women's team was expected to win gold and it could only manage a silver.

The Canadian men's hockey team was supposed to be our dream team, but now what?

At least the team came home leaving Nagano in one piece.

Czech team wanted gold more than team Canada did

By BRADEN TANGUAY
Staff Writer

The Canadian men's hockey team came home empty handed after a disappointing performance in Nagano, Japan.

The Olympics are over and, despite bold predictions for their winning gold, the Canadian team returned with nothing but memories.

Canada began the tournament strong by winning three straight games, including an impressive 4-1 win over the U.S.

Canada easily defeated Kazakhstan 4-1 in the first game of the medal round, but Colorado Avalanche's forward Joe Sakic sustained an injury that knocked him out for the rest of the tournament.

The Canadian quest continued against the Czech Republic. It was a great game that showcased tremendous goalkeeping from Colorado Avalanche's Patrick Roy and Buffalo Sabres' Dominik Hasek. Each allowed only one goal after regulation and overtime.

The shootout proved the undoing for Canada, unable to sneak any puck past The Dominator (Hasek). New York Islanders' Robert Reichel scored the only goal of the breakaway battle giving the Czechs the opportunity to play for gold.

With Canadian spirits sapped, the team played the next day against Finland for the bronze. In an uninspired effort, Canada lost 3-2, obviously a disappointment for a team that wanted nothing less than gold.

What went wrong in Nagano?

Excuses are easy to come by. Anaheim Mighty Ducks' Paul Kariya missed the tournament suffering from post-concussion syndrome. Colorado's Joe Sakic missed the final two games, including the shootout against the Czech team.

Canadian head coach Marc Crawford (from Colorado) made some questionable picks in the shootout; Wayne Gretzky and Steve Yzerman watched from the bench.

The fact is, however, we lost.

Canada was beaten by a Czech club that wanted the game more that they did and played outstanding hockey on their fabled journey to capture their first Olympic gold medal.

If there is any solace in the Olympic hockey experience, it is this: at least we finished better than the U.S.

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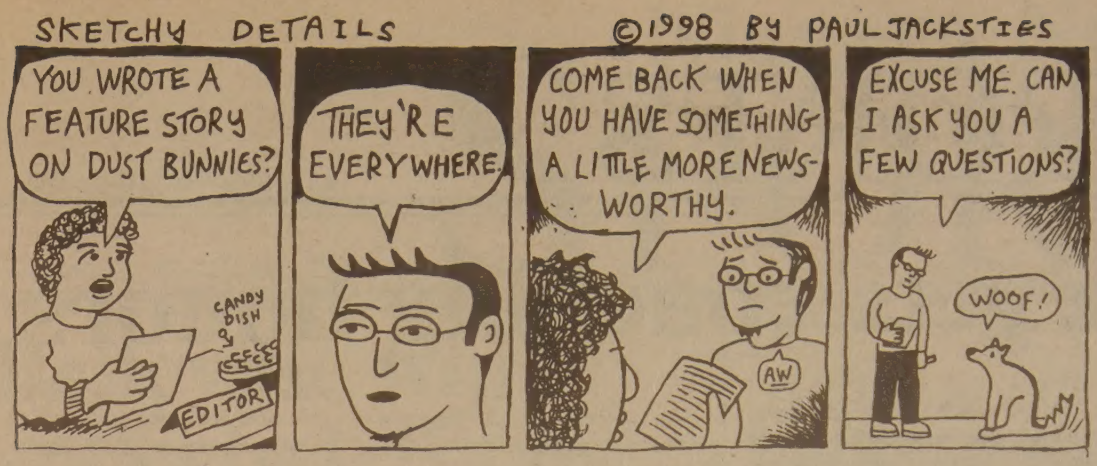
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History, drama ignite Steel's novel

By JENNIFER COTE
Staff Writer

Popular romance writer Danielle Steel takes a departure from her usual writing style to blend history and drama with her latest, *The Ghost*.

Published in December 1997 by Delacorte Press, *The Ghost* is a story-within-a-story that brilliantly weaves together the past and present. Historical events complement this fictional love story.

It begins with London architect Charles Waterston leaving his life behind when his wife of 10 years decides to leave him for another man. His firm then decides to transfer him to its New York offices.

The Ghost is brilliant

Charles decides to take a leave of absence from his job and go skiing in Vermont. A blizzard strands him in Massachusetts, where the second story begins.

Charles rents a remote lakeside cabin and here he finds the diary of the woman who lived and died in the cabin two centuries before. As he reads the diaries he learns about love, letting go of the past and freedom.

Fans of Steel's will be greatly impressed with this refreshing read.

Sling Blade delivers

By PAUL JACKSTIES
Staff Writer

Sling Blade is an excellent film about a mentally-challenged man named Karl Childers who is released after having been institutionalized 25 years for the murder of his mother and another man.

Karl, a slow-witted character, is in nearly every scene. He is brilliantly portrayed by Billy Bob Thornton, who also wrote and directed this low-budget American southern flick. With so much on-screen time spent with Karl during this 134-minute long story, the viewer can't help but empathize with him and share a strong sense of the burden his handicap involves.

Karl is befriended by a boy whose mother eventually invites him to stay in their garage. The mother's abusive boyfriend, played by Dwight Yoakam, makes things nasty for everyone.

A couple of other interesting actors who appear are John Ritter, who plays the mother's neurotic homosexual friend, and Robert Duvall, who plays Karl's father. Duvall's character is reminiscent of his first appearance ever as Bo Radley in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Despite Karl's violent past, he remains a calming influence on the boy and his mother as their lives are interrupted by the boyfriend's cruel ways. Karl comes to suffer the same abuse himself and the film's conclusion seems inevitable.

As creepy as this movie is, *Sling Blade* is a fascinating look at an outsider's world while telling a touching story of friendship and tragedy.

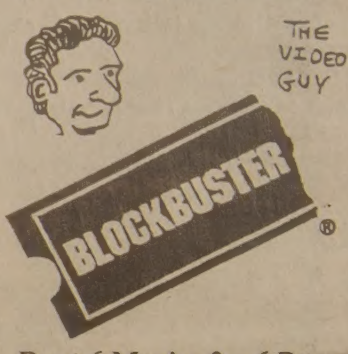
Jim Jarmusch's *Dead Man* features Johnny Depp as William Blake, an accountant, not the famous poet, although there is some sort of mysterious link taking place.

Shot in Jarmusch's typical black-and-white style, this film follows Blake on a violent trek through the Old West as he eludes the law and the bounty hunters who pursue him.

A host of big-time names such as Robert Mitchum, John Hurt and Iggy Pop make appearances in this independent production. Gary Farmer plays an important secondary character as Blake's Indian guide.

Jarmusch has made some significant American films (*Mystery Train, Down By Law*) and it is to his credit that he continues to operate outside of the Hollywood mainstream. It is this reputation as a filmmaker, not multi-million dollar contracts, that attracts big-name stars like Depp to work with him.

However, with *Dead Man* as his latest effort, Jarmusch isn't quite up to his usual masterful self.



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Contest encourages self-awareness in teens

By MICHELLE ADEY
Staff Writer

It's your body, so write about it.

Chatelaine, Chatelaine Quebec and the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAW) have joined forces to sponsor a national bilingual contest for young women ages 13 to 19.

The first-ever *Chatelaine* body image contest is designed for young women to write about the relationship they have with their body.

The essay is to be 750 to 1,000 words about their body from personal experience. *Chatelaine* wants young girls to write about how they feel and what they have learned and, most important, to tell them the truth.

Amy Cross, 37, health editor at *Chatelaine* magazine in Toronto, says body image is a problem among women of all ages.

"We need to talk more critically, look closer and enjoy the bodies we've got," she says.

CRIAW, a national non-governmental and bilingual organization, created this project to start young girls talking and thinking about body image. CRIAW, which is dedicated to improving the lives of girls and women, sponsors and publishes research and links academic and community-based researchers through its networks in Canada.

Kellogg's Special K cereal, which has been promoting healthy body image through advertisements seen on television and in *Chatelaine* and other publications, has provided prizes of $2,000 bursaries to help pay education costs for each of the four winners.

Among the judges are Jann Arden, Juno Award-winning singer-songwriter, Sharlene Azam, publisher of *Reluctant Hero*, the magazine by and for teen girls, Tina Keeper, actor and star of the CBC-TV dramatic series *North of Sixty*, Silken Laumann, an Olympic medalist in rowing, and Irshad Manji, a Vision TV host and *Toronto Star* online columnist.

Prizes of $2,000 bursaries

There will be a winner in English and French for the 13 to 15 age category, and for the 16 to 19 age category. Winners will also receive a Special K gift bag which includes a knapsack, T-shirt and hat, nutritional information and cereal samples.

The two winning English essays will be published in the October 1998 issue of *Chatelaine's* and the two French-language entries will be published in *Chatelaine Quebec'*.

To enter send four copies of a typed double-spaced manuscript, not more that five pages, along with your name, address and phone number before March 15 to: *It's Your Body, Write On It!* Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women, Suite 408, 151 Slater St., Ottawa K1P 5H3.

For more information call (613) 563-0681.

Pisces, they want you, they need you, they love you

By RACHEL LEECH
Staff Writer

Aries (March 21 to April 19) — It's not always easy getting back into the swing of things, but in no time you will. Your previous splurge of partying will slow, but it won't disappear.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) — You may be having trouble with that special someone. Don't shrug it off, because this time it's more serious. Be compassionate to your loved one's needs.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) — As always, you've taken on too much. You can't be expected to do everything alone. Ask a friend for some help. Your workload will be less overwhelming.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) — Life is running smoothly these days. There isn't anything you can't handle. Lend a hand to a Gemini friend who may need your help.

Leo (July 23 to Aug. 22) — It's time to rekindle your friendship. Head out for a nice relaxing lunch and get caught up on each other's lives. You'll be surprised at what your friends have been doing lately.

Virgo (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) — It's time to put on that sensitive charm. Someone close to you needs your support. Be strong and understanding, but don't think you have all the answers. Leave that up to the professionals.

Libra (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) — Don't be so sure of yourself. Others may be put off by your conceited and forward attitude. Not everyone is as confident as you, so try to be considerate.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) — Try not to let people take advantage of you. You are not on-call for everyone to use. Take time out for yourself. The world will go on turning without you for a while.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) — Things aren't always what they appear, so don't jump to conclusions. Be cautious in new situations.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) — A little kissing up never hurt anyone. In order to open doors you may have to do more than usual. Make yourself professionally irresistible to those who may be interested in your talents.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) — Enjoy the high life. Things are going your way and you're loving it. Enjoy it while it lasts. Your life will be drastically changing soon. Accept the changes.

Pisces (Feb. 19 to March 20) — People love you, but they don't all appreciate you. Make those around you aware of just how wonderful you are. They need you. Remember it's not the other way around.

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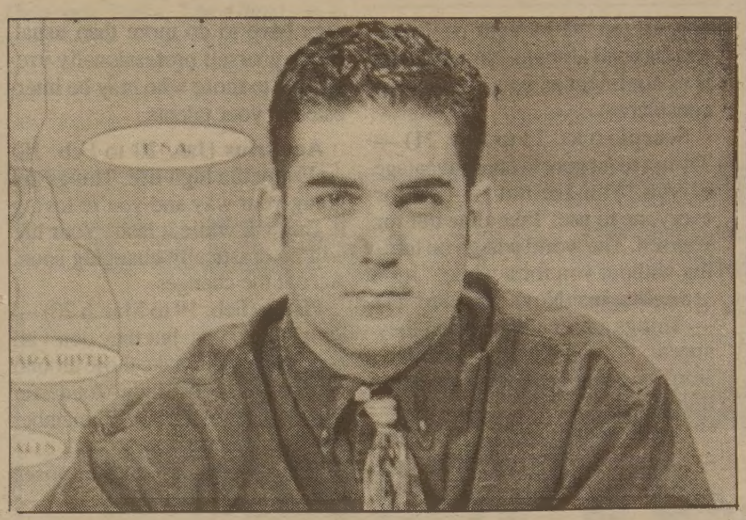
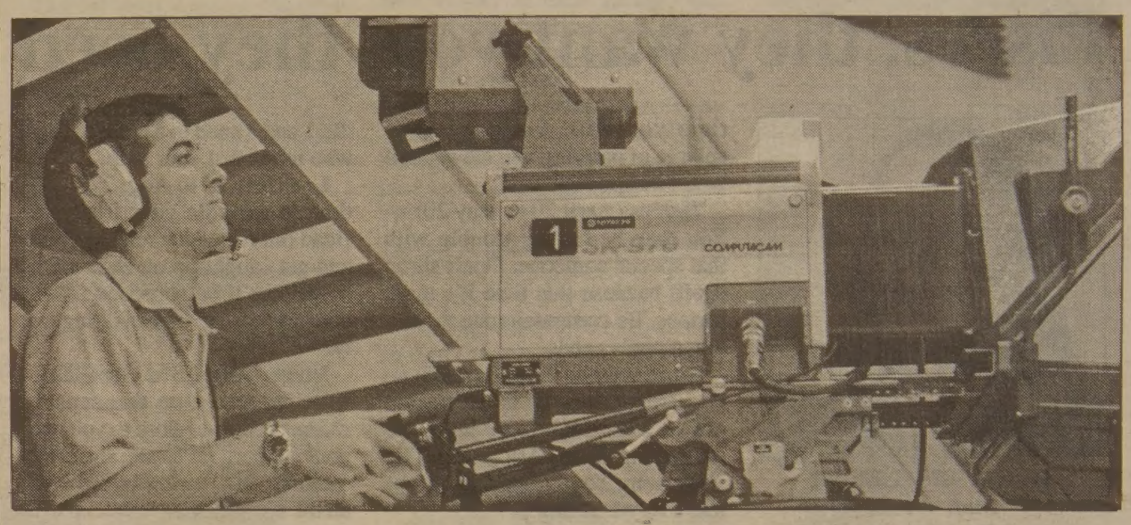
Broadcasting students launch live TV show





From top left, Tina Elliott, 20, of Stoney Creek, Dave Carrol, 21, of Brantford, bottom left Clinton Geoffrey, 19, of Hamilton, and operating the camera is Mark Sommise, 19, of Niagara Falls.
All photos by Kevin McKee

By KEVIN McKEE
Staff Writer

Students of Niagara College's Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program get an umbrella of experience before entering the workforce.

Inside Niagara, a news-magazine format television show, is a work experience laboratory. The show includes news, sports and entertainment as well as in-depth features and special interest stories from the Niagara region. Inside Niagara is entirely produced, directed, edited and presented by second-year BRTF students.

"It takes a lot of people and a lot of teamwork to produce a live weekly television show," said Tom Pagonis, professor.

Inside Niagara is a work environment for students to utilize the skills they learn and get a feel for what the workforce is like.

Megan Isbester, 20, of Port Colborne, a second-year student producer for the Feb. 19 show, said, "There are four on-air personalities and 14 production people who rotate jobs each week." This allows the students to get a wide perspective on all the jobs involved.

"Deadlines must be met and there is pressure to present a professional, informative and entertaining product to the viewing audience," said Pagonis.

Inside Niagara's first telecast was Feb. 12 on Cable 10. The show had its third telecast yesterday and will continue to air each week through April 24.

For more information, or to offer a story idea for Inside Niagara, contact Pagonis at 735-2211, ext. 7435.

Bryan Adams performs special concert for local hospital

By CHER CIRILLO
Staff Writer

This was a perfect performance for a perfect cause.

Bryan Adams performed to a sold-out concert of 3,000 people on Feb. 15 to help raise awareness and money for breast cancer at the Jack Gatecliff Arena in St. Catharines.

Adams, just getting over a cold, laughed and joked with the audience during his performance, setting a perfect mood for the crowd.

During the concert Adams took time out to congratulate and thank the members of the audience for their support and for the success of their goals.

"You've all made this possible. We have raised over $900,000 and it's all because of you," said Adams.

He involved the audience in everything he did during his performance, including getting people on stage to perform for others while he sat to have a "cup of tea."

He stressed the importance of breast cancer awareness, saying it isn't only a woman's issue but a man's issue as well.

"Breast cancer affects everyone — husbands, wives, brothers, sisters and fathers," said Adams. "It's a disease that involves all of us and we have to fight it together."

Super fashion model Linda Evangelista and rock star Bryan Adams hosted a benefit dinner and concert to raise awareness and money for breast cancer on Feb.15.
Photo by Cher Cirillo

Breast screening clinic receives big charity boost

By CHER CIRILLO
Staff Writer

Fashion super-model Linda Evangelista and rock star Bryan Adams joined talents to help fight breast cancer.

On Feb. 15 the pair were hosts for a cocktail reception, dinner and benefit concert to help raise money and awareness for the disease, which strikes more than 18,400 Canadian women a year, 240 of which were women in Niagara Region.

One in nine Canadian women is expected to get breast cancer. In 1993, 246 women in Niagara were diagnosed and 87 died of the disease.

Last fall, St. Catharines General Hospital was chosen by Ontario's Ministry of Health and Cancer Care Ontario as the site for an affiliated breast screening clinic, the only one in this area.

Although the breast screening clinic was opened on schedule the funds were yet to be raised.

Evangelista was approached by the St. Catharines General Hospital Foundation, and she agreed to discuss any ideas that would help raise awareness.

"I've known a lot of people with breast cancer," said Evangelista. "My grandmother is a survivor of the disease and Kyle's stepmother recently passed away from it." Kyle is Evangelista's longtime boyfriend.

When Evangelista was approached she said she had to do something about it because it was a "great thing" to do.

Evangelista had first met Adams when they were raising awareness for breast cancer organizations across the United States.

"Bryan has a young friend who has the disease and I knew he'd be willing to help," said Evangelista. "He said yes immediately and without hesitation."

The centre, named the Evangelista Adams Centre, has one of the four state-of-the-art digital spot mammography units in Canada.

The digital spot feature allows the radiologist to do a 20-second biopsy which is faster and more accurate than other methods.

The system allows a biopsy to be done on the spot. Without the digital spot the woman's breast would remain compressed for 10 minutes while the biopsy is taking place.

The new centre is "very user friendly," said Evangelista.

All proceeds for the dinner and concert went towards funding the $1-million renovation and cost of the equipment. The Ministry of Health covers the centre's operating expenses.

"With early detection we can prevent death by 40 per cent," said Evangelista, "and that's exactly what we need."